



June 1983
#53

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

SUMMER SCHEDULE 1983

JUN 4,5	Snow Practice-Glacier Lodge	Heller
JUN 7,8	Basic Mountaineering Class	Heller/Mason
JUN 11,12	Telescope Peak	Mitchell
JUN 13	Meeting	Stogsdill
JUN 18,19	Laurel Snow Chute	Derrickson
JUN 25,26	Lone Pine Ridge	Huey
Jun 27-???	Mt. McKinley	Rockwell
JUL 2-4	Kaweahs	Heller
JUL 9	Basic Mountaineering Day Trips Candlelight Lookout Point Independence	Stogsdill Heller Buffum
JUL 11	Meeting	Adams
JUL 16,17	Overnight Trips Meysan Lake University Winchell	Derrickson Buffum Heller
JUL 20	Basic Mountaineering Class Party	Heller
JUL 23,24	Goddard Acrodetes	Rockwell Ayers
JUL 30,31	Mt Whitney	Adams
AUG 6,7	Morrison	Renta
AUG 13,14 13-21	Darwin Blackrock to Mt. Whitney	D. Lucas Stogsdill
AUG 15	PARTY	Green
AUG 20,21	Humphreys	Derrickson
AUG 27-29	Palisades	Joy

OPERATION REPORTS

NUMBER	DATE	WHAT	WHERE	LEADER
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82-28	10/20	Alert	Tuolumne County	Harris
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Lost hunter. Conclusion unknown.

82-29	11/5	Alert	Whitney Summit	Renta
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Emergency helicopter landing on Mt. Whitney. Handled by Navy.

82-30	11/8	Transit	Mt. Whitney	Hinman
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At 1030 on November 8, Nancy Hinman received a call from the Inyo Sheriff to search for a missing hiker on Mt. Whitney. Twenty-one year old Julius Galleos was last seen the previous day at 1500 when he and his companion Scott Tanner separated at Trail Crest. Galleos was to continue his summit climb while Tanner, who was cold and tired, returned to base camp at Trail Camp. When Tanner returned to camp he found that the high winds had blown down their tent and scattered their equipment. He retrieved enough gear to make it through the night. Galleos had not returned to Trail Camp by morning, so Tanner walked out to the Portal and notified the Inyo Sheriff.

The Naval Weapons Center helo was not available so seven CLMRG personnel including Joy, Brown, D. Lucas, Peterson, Hine, Dave Perry (communications) and I drove to Lone Pine Airport arriving at 1330. A Deputy was there to inform us that Galleos had returned to Trail Camp after an apparent cold night out, where he was met by Tanner and a member of the Forest service who had both hiked in from the Portal. We returned to China Lake at 1600.

COMMENT:

1. The response from the leader section of the roster was poor.
2. There was a problem finding available transportation.

83-1 1/23 Search Rock House Basin Road Green

Our first call came from James Wilson, the father of Kenneth. This was at 0715 Sunday morning. The family was extremely worried because Kenneth and his 19 month old son, Kyle, had not returned from a trip to the snow on the previous day. They had left in their jeep at about 0900 on Saturday with the stated intention of returning in no more than four hours. They were now nearly 24 hours overdue.

I called Ron Smith of the IWV S&R team to coordinate with them and the Sheriff's office. Smith agreed to contact the local deputy and I started our team callout. It was clear that we needed 4WD vehicles to check out the most likely spots for a hopefully short trip to the snow. The CLMRG callout produced 6 4WD's and 21 people. Fourteen were sent out on assignments, mostly in the area around Nine Mile Canyon. One of these teams was a radio relay working out of the BLM station above Nine Mile. This relay proved very effective and provided our base at China Lake with nearly perfect coverage with our teams. At about 1225 a sighting was made from a fixed wing aircraft, piloted by Lance Warren. The location was on the road going from the top of Nine Mile Canyon to Rock House Basin. Our team of Atkins and Adams had driven as far as possible up that road and was proceeding on snowshoes along the road. The China Lake helicopter was diverted from its search of some canyons to the south and headed up to the location. The pickup was made by the helo and both Kenneth and Kyle were safely retrieved from their trapped vehicle.

The search was coordinated by Deputy Clark of the Kern County Sheriff's Office. The IWV team searched the canyons south of Nine Mile and had a base camp at the Inyokern airport. We notified both Inyo and Tulare Sheriff's offices because the CLMRG teams were searching in their counties.

83-2 1/31 Search Panamint Butte Heller

Dianne Lucas was phoned Monday morning by her daughter that Lee and a friend, Karen Lindblom, were overdue from a Sunday trip to Panamint Butte. We decided to have someone drive to Towne Pass to look for the vehicle and Kliman and Harris volunteered. I phoned operations to learn whether the SAR helo would be available later if needed. LCDR Lancaster said the helo was free until early afternoon and would take our team at 0945.

The vehicle was not in Towne Pass but was located near the Big Four Mining Company. Harris, Willer, and Kliman began tracking from the car while the helo flew a search pattern locating Lindblom and Lucas still on the mountain. They had descended the wrong ridge, been stranded overnight and were reascending to cross over to the correct down route. The helo lifted them to their vehicle and came home.

We had notified Inyo County and Kern County of the operation and had passed along Lancaster's suggestion that the IWVSAR team might be needed for the mine.

Green and C. Burge helped with the in-town work and several people committed to going out if needed.

83-3 3/1 Transit Jawbone Canyon/Cantil Green

We were put on alert by Sgt Gill Cooper early in the morning because of the number of emergency calls coming in related to the flooding and washouts caused by the heavy rains. At lunch time Sgt Cooper asked us to provide two 4WD vehicles to evacuate a stranded party in Jawbone Canyon. It took over an hour during this lunch period to reach our people who had been put on alert. As the events progressed the Jawbone Canyon problem was handled by the helicopter and we were assigned to evacuate people in the Cantil area.

Four 4WD's went to the intersection of Highway 14 and the Garlock road; Bob Adams with David Perry, Corinna Peterson with Dan Sherman, Larry Gleason with Bob Joy, and Rod Willer with Mike Wisecarver. The CLMRG base was handled by Don Harris, Andrew Mitchell, Ken Burton and Bob Huey. Carl Heller helped with the coordination at the Sheriffs' substation. Al Green and Bart Hine set up a relay on Laurel Mountain, this was aided by Stan Sanders providing keys for the gates. Bob Fletcher was the Ridgecrest end on the Ham connection. Lee Fletcher helped with the in-town coordination along with Carol Burge, Mary Wyatt and Barb Slates. The IWV SAR team was also operating within this same radio net and coordinating effort. They had an operation leader at the Sheriffs' substation and were being dispatched as we were at the direction of Sgt Cooper.

It was a valuable exercise in Base Camp operation and communications. We were called back after barely getting into position but the act of getting there was not trivial. And, to have continuous radio contact with vehicles on an operation like this was a real achievement.

COMMENTS:

1. We should have obtained lunch time phone numbers from our people.
2. We need more topographic maps of the areas to the south of us and good road maps.
3. We had some trouble with Team radio call numbers, particularly between CLMRG base and relay and IWVSAR teams. It would be useful to have a IWVSAR and CLMRG person at both base and at any relays to alleviate this problem.

83-4 3/1-3/2 Alert Indian Wells Valley Rockwell

I was called by Larry Jones of the NWC 00D's office at 2035 hours on this rainy, windy evening. There had been a tornado watch for the area all day and he reported that a significant tornado, currently about 10 miles south of China Lake, was approaching at 1 to 2 knots and could do considerable damage. He requested that we be on alert for possible disaster work.

Carol and Barb called the roster. It was gratifying that virtually everyone who could be reached was willing to volunteer for what could be a very unpleasant and arduous task, yet one of extreme importance to our community. Thirty-one field members committed. The alert was cancelled at 0600 hours the next day.

83-5

3/2

Search

Last Chance Canyon

Huey

Al Green was called by the Kern County Sheriff's Office in Ridgecrest at approximately 1030 hours on 2 March. Two Los Angeles men had driven to a mine in the Last Chance Canyon area, and they had not arrived home on 1 March as expected. Due to the heavy rains and flooding in the area it seemed that they might have been stranded, rather than in any actual danger. Al decided that the appropriate effort at that time was to send a team to the mine site to determine if the men were still at or around the site rather than call out a full operation. He also suggested that more information be ascertained about their situation from the Sheriff and family.

I acted as operation leader, and was accompanied by Rod Willer, Bob Joy, and Howard Derrickson. Two 4WD vehicles were operated by Huey and Joy. Information provided by Sgt Cooper at the Ridgecrest Sheriff Sub-station indicated that the mine in question was 1 mile NW of Bickel, and SW of Black Mountain. A call was placed to the wife of one of the subjects in order to get more information. The subjects were Bill Lane and John Anderson, both age 33. They were driving a tan Datsun pickup, and had gone to what they called the "Sunshine Mine" on

Monday, and were due home Tuesday. Both men were in good health. After obtaining maps and advice from the Bureau of Land Management, the two teams proceeded to the Garlock road, to proceed up Mesquite Canyon. The highway was completely washed away at two crucial sections, which kept the teams from proceeding. After attempting to take a trail to the ridge, the teams were advised by two miners that the access to the mine site from that approach was improbable. The teams then proceeded back to Inyokern and South on Highway 14 to the old Red Rock Road. We were able to drive within a mile of the mine site where the road was completely washed away. We proceeded on foot to the mine site. There was no evidence of vehicular travel out of the area, and no vehicle was found. The teams split up and surveyed areas to the south and west of the mine site. Observations were made down the Bonanza Gulch, and Last Chance Canyon. There was no sighting of any vehicle from our vantage points. Upon returning to our vehicles we met a Toyota 4WD that had been in the area we were surveying, as far as the camp of Bickel. This party reported many people in the Bickle Camp, but they had not observed a tan Datsun.

We returned to the Ridgecrest Sheriff Sub-Station by 1800 hours and were debriefed by Sgt Clark. We were told that we would be contacted if further action was required.

LESSONS LEARNED:

1. It turned out that having a team member (Howard Derrickson) who was familiar with the area was very important.
 2. Information obtained from the family was incomplete. More time should be taken to first determine what information is needed.
 3. It seems that the decision not to call an all-out field operation was a good one.
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"The Tail of Poor Wallee"

83-6

4/1

Search

Lone Pine

Renta

On Friday, April 1st at 0730 I received a call from LCDR Chip Lancaster stating that NWC had a possible operation for us. A Navy A-7 had lost part of a test item off NWC property and they would like to put CLMRG on alert. Chip stated that NWC was going to send out a helicopter to look again this morning and if nothing turned up we would start the search Friday afternoon or Monday morning. I initiated a call-out. Eighteen people would be able to respond if we went into the field Friday and 19 for Monday.

At about 1430 Chip called again. The helo search had found nothing and the Navy wanted us to begin our search on Saturday. I was to be briefed at the security building at 1530 that day along with a representative from Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue.

At the briefing, Charly Rogers of IWVSAR and I were informed that the missing item was a section of the tail of a Walleye. The high probability area was a nine-square mile area south of Diaz Lake near Lone Pine. The search area was bordered on the east by Highway 395 and on the west by the Horseshoe Meadows road. Charly and I decided to meet at the hut at 0730 Saturday morning.

After the briefing was completed another call-out was started for Saturday; 14 CLMRG members would be able to go into the field. At 0730 Saturday we met at the hut and loaded into a bus supplied by NWC. There were 12 CLMRG members and 7 people from IWVSAR. Two Bobs (Huey and Rockwell) decided to drive because they had evening commitments. The bus arrived at the search area at about 0915. The Bobs were nowhere to be seen so we started a line search without them. Twenty minutes into the line search Bob Rockwell made radio contact with us to determine our location. After several radio exchanges, the Bobs wound up acting as "base camp" coordinating between us and the bus which didn't have radio contact with the rest of the field team.

About an hour into the first pass of the line search a loud and excited "I FOUND IT" was heard coming from the direction of Rod Willer. We ran over to look. There was Wallee, practically all 16 inches of him buried beside a bush, electrical connector staring up at us. After a careful medical examination we pronounced poor Wallee "Dead At The Scene", dug him up and carried him out to the nearest road. We then loaded back into the bus and returned to NWC. After a debriefing by Security Department Head, Bill Davis and Captain Scott Vaught, the operation was concluded at 1300 hours.

Vehicle Mileage: 150 miles

Manhours: 81

Comments:

1. The line search was a little sloppy, for two reasons:

a. We only had two radios on the line and it was therefore difficult to communicate effectively over the length of the line. More radios should have been brought along.

b. When we began the line search we started with 50 foot intervals between searchers. This varied because of terrain. The coverage was not as good as it should have been. This problem could have been minimized if everyone had been given more specific instructions.

had fallen and cut his left knee to the bone. The reporting person, Scott Davis, would meet us at Coso Junction.

The call-out netted nine members that were ready to leave from the hut by 2030. We met with Scott and got more directions and information on Fletcher's condition. Scott said the trail had a lot of mud and many creek crossings, but maybe we could use our stretcher with a wheel to bring Fletcher out. He was correct about the mud and water. We left the trailhead about 2130 and found Fletcher huddled under several sleeping bags with his girlfriend Teri and his dog Bear, at 2300. After a quick check for circulation in Fletcher's lower leg (first aid had been accomplished earlier by Teri, consisting of a towel and elastic bandage), we put him in the sleeping bags and secured him in the now assembled wheeled stretcher. We started down the trail at 2330 with out 185 pound payload warm and happy to be on his way. After 2-1/2 hours of heavy brush, rocks, rose bushes, and mud and water up to our knees, we made it to the trailhead, there to off load Fletcher from the stretcher into Lee Kliman's BLM truck. Fletcher was then transported to the Ridgecrest hospital to get his share of stitches and to be sent home. The operation was secured at 0345 and members headed home for R&R; except for the leader who went home for one hour before going on travel at 0500. Such is life.

The nine members responding to the call for rescue were: Tom Stogsdill, Al Green, Bob Huey, Linda Finco, Lee Kliman, Ken Amster, Bart Hine, Larry Gleason, and Frank Buffum. Coordinator was Barbara Slates.

YES, PEIPS DO WORK!

A skier was hurled 600 feet over a cliff and down a mountainside by an avalanche and buried for 20 minutes but was rescued unharmed by his cross-country skiing companions. Michael Franklin, 36, of Salt Lake City was pulled from the slide unharmed because he was wearing a tiny radio transmitter that allowed his four companions to quickly find the spot where he was buried. Franklin and the others had been skiing near Raymond Peak, in the back country northwest of the Brighton, Utah, ski resort, when the slide occurred, ski patrolmen said.

(LA TIMES 3/7/83)

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP 1982 OPERATIONS

OP #	DATE	OPERATION	LOCATION	# OF MEMBERS	TOTAL MAN HRS	NWC EXCUSED MAN HRS
	28 Feb	Mobilization, youngster stranded, rescued by others	Great Falls Basin Inyo Co.	11	12	0
2	13 Mar	Alert, stranded climber, helo'd out	Death Valley Inyo Co.	4	2	
3	15 Mar	Search, missing jogger, walked out	Indian Wells Valley Kern Co.	21	34	
4.	2 May	Mobilization, overdue climbers, walked out	Spanish Needle Peak Kern Co.	22	7	
5	8 May	Alert, overdue hiker, walked out after 4 days	Tahquitz Canyon Riverside Co.	16	2	
6	31 May	Transit, lost camper, walked out	Wawona Mariposa Co.	6	101	
7	31 May	Mobilization, injured hiker, helo'd out	Palisade Glacier Inyo Co.	3		0
8	15 June	Transit, injured climber, Park Service handled	Whitney East Face Inyo Co.	11	39	40
9	27 June	Alert, fallen climber, helo'd out	U-Notch Inyo Co.		2	
10	4-6 July	Search, lost backpacker, found OK	Piute Pass Fresno co.	14	337	108
11	10 July	Alert, overdue climber, walked out	Mt. Emerson Inyo Co.	9	11	
12	14-15 July	Rescue 6 recovery, two climbers	Whitney East Face Inyo Co.	10	240	66
13	17 July	Alert, two lost hikers, found O K	Arnold, CA Calaveras Co.	6	6	0
14	18 July	Rescue, stranded hiker, hoisted by helo	Mirror Lake Inyo Co.	4	11	0
15	19-20 July	Search, downed aircraft, 2 men found injured	Morris Peak Kern Co.	22	175	80
16	23 July	Rescue, injured hiker, flown out by helo	Whitney Trail Inyo Co.	5	23	20
17	2-3 Sept	Search, 84 yrs backpacker, found injured	Whitney Trail Inyo Co.	13	285	113
18	5-6 Sept	Search, two missing climbers, walked out late	V-Notch Inyo Co.	9	103	0
19	6 Sept	Search, missing hunter, found injured	Jawbone Canyon Kern Co.	2	5	0
20	8-9 Sept	Search, 78 yrs hiker, found OK	Whitney Trail Inyo Co.	13	155	78
21	25 Sept	Alert, lost hunter, found OK	Kennedy Meadows Tulare Co.	13		0
22	26 Sept	Alert, approx. 30 overdue hunters, all showed up	Bear Valley Alpine Co.	2	4	0
23	28-30 Sept	Search, two Ridgecrest backpackers, found OK	Mono Pass Fresno Co.	28	709	284
24	10 Oct	Alert, injured backpacker, rescued by others	Whitney Trail Inyo Co.	7	8	0
25	10 Oct	Alert, 3 overdue climbers, walked out late	Palisade area Inyo Co.	7	2	0
26	12 Oct	Transit two overdue hunters, walked out late	Bull Run Creek Kern Co.	10	23	23
27	12 Oct	Search, lost hiker, found OK	Ostrander Lake Mariposa Co.	4	56	16
28	..20 Oct	Alert, lost hunter, unk conclusion	Dorrington RS Tuolumne Co.	6	4	
29	5 Nov	Alert, downed helo, handled by Navy Inyo Co.	Whitney Summit	14	5	
	8 Nov	Transit, missing hiker, walked out	Whitney Trail Inyo Co.	9	50	30

SUMMARY

11 Alerts	15 - Inyo County	2419 Total Manhours
3 Mobilizations	5 - Kern Co.	862 NWC Excused Manhours
4 Transits	2 - Fresno Co.	7682 Vehicle Miles
9 Searches for 12 persons; all found alive	2 - Yosemite NP (Mariposa Co.)	
	1 - Death Valley NM (Inyo Co.)	
3 Rescues	1 - Riverside Co.	
1 Recovery	1 - Calaveras Co. 1	
	1 - Tulare Co.	
	1 - Alpine Co.	
	1 - Tuolumne Co.	

QUARTERMASTERS REPORT CY 1982

A complete inventory was taken of all items in the hut and their conditions noted. All equipment was placed on a computerized inventory list and sorted by placement in the hut as well as by type of equipment. All equipment needing repair was identified and action was taken to repair or replace it. Items that were determined to be beyond repair or of no use to the Group were reviewed by the membership, and disposed of (items that were useable, but of questionable value to CLMRG were given to groups that had a use for such items). The need for new items was evaluated based on the list of current equipment and the state of repair of that equipment.

New purchases included 3 ice axes, one 9mm rope, a plastic breakdown stretcher for use on snow, an extrication device (pliable half backboard), an Elper for receiving signals from downed aircraft, and miscellaneous items to include pulleys, ice screws, gas for stoves, marking pencils and paper supplies for base camp, batteries, and first aid supplies.

A map inventory was completed and 3 copies of all maps were acquired. In addition, maps were acquired for all areas of possible search within our possible response area except metropolitan areas.

Two "Talkman" radios (radios having a headset and are voice actuated) were purchased that could be used on technical rescues by climbers and stretcher attendants.

--BOB HUEY

DONOR'S CORNER

We are grateful for the continuing support of our many friends, especially those who have provided so much financial help over the years. Thank you again to:

Janet Hammond
Mojave Primitive Encampment

Lisa Hamel is the artist for our terrific basic mountaineering class flyer. Thank you, Lisa!

CLMRG'S 25th ANNIVERSARY!

Watch for banquet date in a future Talus File! (November???)

THE PATRON SAINT OF MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Did you ever wonder who founded the first mountain rescue organization? The credit should go to Saint Bernard in Switzerland. Way back in 962 A.D. while he was the bishop of Aosta, Bernard founded a monastery 8,000 feet up in the Swiss Alps to give aid to the travelers going over the Grand St. Bernard Pass. The rules of the monastery required the monks to go out each day from November 15th till the end of May, to help travelers over the pass. Weather conditions in this region, high above the timberline, are always unpredictable and treacherous, with below-freezing temperatures even in the summer. In winter, heavy snows may be as deep as 30 feet or more, with avalanches a constant threat. In the late 1660's, the dogs were brought to the Hospice and soon were named after the Hospice of St. Bernard. The dogs accompanied the monks on their daily patrols, and often unaccompanied dogs located lost travelers and guided them to safety. Because of their uncanny ability to find persons buried 6 feet or more under the snow, these dogs have been credited with saving over 2,000 lives during the past 300 years. One dog, called Barry, saved over 40 people, including a child who he carried to safety on his back. After his death, Barry was mounted and placed on exhibit at the Bern Museum.

In 1932, Pope Pius XI, who was himself formerly an Alpinist, named St. Bernard as the Patron Saint of Alpinists and mountaineers. His Feast Day is May 28th.

(Rescue Rucksack - May 83)

EDITOR'S CORNER

My thanks to Mary Wyatt, typist for the Talus Pile. That is undoubtedly the biggest job. Consultants were Carol Burge and Bob Rockwell. Dave Maddox handled printing and distribution.

Thank you!

Sheila Rockwell