



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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JUNE 4	Hug-A-Tree/Mt. Whitney Presentation - NWC Theater	Pub. Ed. Comm.
JUNE 5	Rope Inspection Hut Night	Mitchell
JUNE 8	Telescope Peak Run	Mitchell
JUNE 10	Meeting	Stogsdill/Lucas
JUNE 11-JULY 17	Basic Mountaineering Class	Stogsdill
JUNE 16	Mt. Whitney Day Climb	Adams
JUNE 22	Lone Pine East Ridge	Huey
JUNE 29	Class Day Trips Thor Independence	Finco Burge
JUNE 30	Class Day Trips Dragon Cirque	Derrickson Rockwell
JULY 4-7	Palisades	Rockwell
JULY 13-14	Class Overnights Russell/Carillon McAdie/Irvine Agassiz	Derrickson Rockwell D. Harris
JULY 20	Kern Needles Clarence King/Fin Dome	Hinman Rockwell
JULY 21-27	Tetons	Derrickson
JULY 24	Class Party	Stogsdill
JULY 27-28	Split Mountain Goddard	Finco Rockwell

OPERATION REPORTS

85-2            1/5/85            Search            Garlock            Stogsdill

On 2 January 1985 the Kern County Sheriff's Office requested that we assist a search for Mr. Howard S. Tovarsky of Granada Hills, California. Mr. Tovarsky had been the subject of a search that had begun on 17 December 1984 which was discontinued due to poor weather (see #84-26). Today's search was to be the last effort for the missing man.

Along with Linda Finco, Bart Hine and Bill Martin, I proceeded to Garlock where we were met by Deputy Davis from Bakersfield and eight members of the Indian Wells Valley SAR. Deputy Davis asked that CLMRG set up the base control and conduct the search via four wheel drive vehicle coverage of all the roads in the Garlock/Red Mountain area. Five vehicle teams were assembled with two searchers per vehicle. The first team was deployed at 1015 and at 1408 the last team returned to base. The road search operation turned up no additional sign or information on the missing subject. During the debrief at the Mojave Sheriff Substation we found out that all Kern County SAR groups had been called out for the day, well over a hundred searchers, with the same results as ours.

85-3            3/3/85            Alert            Chimney Peak            Rockwell

I received a call at 0845 on Sunday, 3 March, from the NWCOOD. Six people in a 4WD vehicle had not returned yesterday from a planned trip from Nine Mile Canyon to Horse Canyon. It had snowed -heavily at the higher elevations overnight. I called Sgt. Gil Cooper as requested. He said the IWVSAR team was searching the backroads today, and if nothing turned up they would like our assistance.

Sheila Rockwell and Shannon Harris alerted the roster: 24 field members committed to going. I reported the response back to Sgt. Cooper at 0955. He had just received a radio call that the Tulare County Sheriff's deputies had found the lost party, cold but in good condition. Their vehicle had been stuck in the snow at Long Valley.

Members committing were: Green, Hinman, B. Rockwell, Stogsdill, Adams, Lucas, Atkins, Mason, Finco, Gleason, Sakai, Joy, Mitchell, Derrickson, Seibold, Wisecarver, Jones, Dan Harris, Geyer, Sherman, Barnhardt, Don Harris, P. TerHeun, Kliman.

85-4            4/3-4/85            Search            Spanish Needle            Green

At 1845 (4/3/85) I received a call from the Kern County Sheriffs' dispatcher. He reported that Sgt. Cooper was requesting us to mobilize for an airplane crash on Owens Peak. There was no additional detail at that time but it was taken as an urgent call to have a team available as soon as possible. Bob Rockwell agreed to get a coordinator and call the roster. Cherryl Braun became the in-town coordinator and assisted in the callout. At 1930 we were told to send teams to meet Sgt. Cooper at the intersection of Brown Road and Highway 395. The first team was Rockwell, Renta, Joy and Mitchell. They were followed shortly by Gleason, Wisecarver, Martin, Castro, Green, Buffum, Huey, and Dan Harris. Lee Lucas and Amster were running base camp at the hut.

The rendezvous point was the entrance to Sand Canyon just off 395. Deputy Les Darling was there and briefed us on the incident. A citizen had reported seeing a plane crash near the skyline just north of Spanish Needle late that afternoon. Deputy Darling had responded to the report and confirmed what was believed to be the plane wreckage. These sightings were made from the vicinity of the Inyokern-Brown Road overpass. The Sheriffs' helicopter was on the way from Bakersfield to overfly the suspected site. We sent two 4WDs with **six** people to the south fork of Sand Canyon for a closer look and to check with the DF equipment for an ELT signal. We had checked for an ELT signal from the hut and along the way to Sand Canyon without success. The remaining six people waited for results from the helo flight. At about 2130 hours the helo did fly, and did a very impressive job using a very bright spot light which illuminated large sections, rastering over the suspected crash site. Their conclusion was that if it had been there, they would have seen it. Phelps TerHeun had also checked with the flight service center in Lancaster, who in turn checked with both LA center and Fresno, determining that there was no report of an overdue airplane and no disappearance from radar.

In spite of this, we elected to spend the night in the area so that when the sun came up we would be in a position to look for the plane and to assist if needed. It was also agreed that a spotting scope would be used from the location of the sighting early in the morning. Huey and Buffum could not miss early morning appointments and returned to base. The rest of us bivouacked at the end of the road near the face of Spanish Needle. At 0600 base reported that Buffum with Carroll Evans and his spotting scope- were headed out. We had already been checking with small binoculars and viewing the area from different vantage points. At 0720 we were told to return to base. The crashed plane was a patch of snow.

Comments:

1. The rendezvous point of Brown Road and 395 was ambiguous. It could have been at the overpass or at the Sand Canyon entrance.
2. Local calls like this tend to sucker some of us into thinking that we will not bivvy. Tain't necessarily so.
3. The O.L. cannot promise when an operation will be over. If you have a definite commitment you must decide if you can risk missing it.
4. Base could communicate well with the PT-400s, but not at all with the handitalkies.

85-5            4/19-21/85            Search            Whitney Portal            Hinman

At 0930 hours on 19 April, Pat Elliott of the Inyo County Sheriff's Posse called requesting CLMRG help in locating a missing man in the Whitney Portal area. Twenty-four year old Randall Emery of Dallas, Texas, had left home sometime near 5 April intent on committing suicide. In a note to his parents, he stated that he was going into the mountains and hike until he died from exhaustion or exposure. His empty, parked, vehicle was first noted at the Portal on 10 April. It was known that it had not been there on 8 April. On 18 April a vehicle license check showed it to belong to the missing person which ultimately initiated the search.

A seven-member CLMRG team arrived at Whitney Portal at 1230. Together with several Inyo personnel and three CLMRG personnel who later joined us, we spent the rest of the day searching the immediate area around the parking lot at the end of the road. Finding no clues to the missing man's whereabouts, a full CRMRA callout was instigated that evening. Carol Burge handled the details for CLMRG.

The next two days of searching involved over 50 CRMRA personnel including three more members of CLMRG. There were also seven search dogs and their six handlers from CARDA and the NWC helo and its crew of five. The complete area around the Portal was line searched up to the base of the cliffs on the North, West and South sides and down the Lone Pine Creek drainage to the 6,000 foot elevation. Several prominent chutes which led through the above mentioned cliffs were also searched. The Meysan Lakes drainage was searched to the 11,000 foot elevation. The north fork drainage of Lone Pine Creek was searched to Clyde Meadow and south fork drainage was searched beyond Mirror Lake. The only evidence of any kind found was some of the missing man's wallet items and blank checks in a trash can near where his car was parked.

The searching was extremely hampered by the amount of time lapse between the victim's arrival at Whitney Portal and the initiation of the search. This was aggravated by the large amount of snow melt during this unusually warm period. The victim was not known to have winter mountaineering equipment, in particular snow shoes. This fact tended to concentrate the search to the lower elevations since the snow was known to be very soft at the time of his arrival. However, on the last day of the search it was verified that a pair of snow shoes had been stolen from a cabin in the Portal area, possibly by the victim. Searching of the higher elevations was restricted by the fact that the helo was not able to air search or fly personnel in because of mechanical problems and bad afternoon weather. Although the ground search was discontinued on 21 April, the Sequoia National Park helo did fly the following week, searching both the east and west sides of the Whitney Crest area to no avail.

CLMRG personnel involved in the search include D. Hinman, Adams, Renta, Hine, Lucas, D. Burge, Sakai, Derrickson, Bonbright, Wisecarver, Jones, Buffum, D. Harris, C. Burge and Slates. Other CRMRA teams involved in the search were Inyo, San Diego, Bay Area, Sierra Madre, Altadena and June Lake.

Comments:

1. On the second and third days of the search we held back some of the more experienced and acclimated mountaineers to be flown in by the helo to the higher elevations of the north and south forks of Lone Pine Creek. By the time it was known that they could not be flown in, it was too late to effectively use them elsewhere in the field. It would have been much better to start these people in by foot up the trails early in the morning. Then, if the helo was able to fly they could be ferried in further, and if the helo couldn't fly they could still search the lower elevations of their assignment.

2. Trying to operate a search in a confined area like Whitney Portal is very difficult using 15 minute topos. Base camp eventually got one 7.5 minute topo with a few copies which helped immensely. CLMRG should purchase 7.5 minute topos of this area and all other prime operational areas.

While climbing in Echo Cove, Paul DeRuiter and I noted several sirens and subsequent helo activity somewhere nearby. Rumor spread of a large technical rescue at Astrodomes subsequent to a climbing accident.

Paul and I left Echo Cove at 1650 and saw a NPS van on the dirt road between Echo Tee and Wonderland Ranch. Just being nosey, we approached, identified ourselves and asked what was going on. Somewhere, I must have used the phrase "if you can use any help..." and the next thing we knew we were loading rescue gear, transporting it to the helo staging site, and were sent in by helo to a field helo LZ. Paul and I packed headlamps, oxygen, water and other miscellaneous items to the victim's site. The victim climber had taken a 25 foot (unroped?) fall and had a compound fracture of the tibia and fibula. She had already been lowered to the base of the dome and was being tended by what we believed was a professional nurse.

Now having the headlamps, the Park crew, the climber's party and ourselves, about 12 in all, carried the stretcher out of the boulder strewn narrow valley, some distance up to an accessible ridge to rendezvous with a SAR helo from El Toro MCAS. The victim was hoisted aboard from about 30 feet up with a Corpsman riding the stretcher. We then walked out with the Park team at 2200 hours.

### **Mount Heller Project**

**CLMRG plans to petition the Board of Geographic Names to name a Sierra Peak after our founder, Dr. Carl A. Heller. The peaks we are considering have been narrowed to the following two:**

**First Choice - Peak 13211: East of Wallace Lake on the Whitney quadrangle**

**Second Choice - Peak 12.893: NW of North Guard Peak on the Whitney quadrangle**

**Carl Heller's many contributions to mountaineering and mountain rescue are well known to readers of the Talus Pile. If you would like to give your support to this effort, you are encouraged to write a letter to the Board of Geographic Names and mail it to us.**

**We would like to submit the petition, with letters of endorsement, to the Board of Geographic Names by July 15, 1985.**

## CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP 1984 OPERATIONS

OP#	DATE	OPERATION	LOCATION	# OF MEMBERS	TOTAL PERSON HRS	NWC EXCUSED PERSON HRS
84-1	5 Feb	Rescue, climber with broken leg, helo'd out	Mount Whitney Inyo Co.	13	176	72
84-2	15 Mar	Mobilization, overdue climbers, returned on own	Bill's Butte Kern Co.	9	3	0
84-3	16 Apr	Transit, missing 10 year old boy, found by Inyo team	Lone Pine Inyo Co.	10	70	0
84-4	6 May	Alert, airplane wreckage sighted, turned out to be old	Indian Wells Canyon Kern Co.	11	33	0
84-5	11-13 Jun	Search, missing hiker, not found during search, found dead from fall months later	Joshua Tree National Monument San Bdn Co.	24	728	220
84-6	27 Jun	Incident, student climber overcome by heat exhaustion, lowered to ground and driven to hospital	School Rocks Kern Co.	14	16	0
84-7	28-29 Jun	Alert, overdue hikers, walked out on own	John Muir Trail Madera Co.	27	65	0
84-8	29 Jun	Transit, aircraft wreckage sighted, turned out to be old	Olancha Peak Inyo Co.	16	64	64
84-4	8-9 Jul	Rescue, two climbers, one with broken leg and other with injured ankle, helo'd out	Charlotte Dome Fresno Co.	15	300	112
84-10	24-26 Jul	Search, missing 5 year old girl, walked out on own	Tuolumne Meadows Tuolumne Co.	9	298	128
84-11	4 Aug	Alert, hiker with altitude sickness, helo'd out	Long Lake Inyo Co.	1	2	0
84-12	5-6 Aug	Rescue, climber with broken leg, helo'd off summit	Norman Clyde Peak Inyo Co.	17	184	112
84-13	15 Aug	Rescue, flood, checked on possible stranded victims and road conditions	Ridgecrest Kern Co.	19	106	36
84-14	19 Aug	Rescue, climber with broken leg, carried to LZ, helo'd out	Thor Peak Inyo Co.	21	264	56
84-15	2-3 Sep	Transit, lost hiker, found okay by Park Service	Yosemite Valley Mariposa Co.	7	104	0
84-16	3-4 Sep	Search, missing hiker, found okay, helo'd out	Mount Tom Inyo Co.	17	152	80
84-17	4 Sep	Alert, overdue hikers, walked out on own	Mount Whitney Inyo Co.	10	10	0
84-18	8 Sep	Mobilization, missing climber, walked out on own	Kearsarge Peak Inyo Co.	15	16	0
84-19	21-22 Sep	Rescue, fallen climber with multiple injuries, helo'd out	Mount Sill Inyo Co.	14	107	0
84-20	24 Sep	Transit, missing hunter, walked out on own	Hunter Mountain Inyo Co.	8	36	34
84-21	24 Sep	Alert, missing motorcyclist, found okay	Rand Mountains Kern Co.	18	55	0
84-22	15 Oct	Rescue, injured ice climber from 800 foot fall, carried to LZ, helo'd out	Mount Gilbert Inyo Co.	3	31	16
84-23	19-21 Oct	Search, missing 3 year old girl, not found	Joshua Tree National Monument San Bdn Co.	18	1170	64

84-24	24 Oct	Search, missing hunter, found okay	El Paso Mountains Kern Co.	20	144	84
84-25	2 Dec	Search, recon of aircraft wreckage, Inyo handled body recoveries	Mount Mary Austin Inyo Co.	3	33	0
84-26	17-18 Dec	Search, missing person, not found	Garlock Kern Co.	18	200	154
84-27	20 Dec	Search, missing skier, walked out on own	Mount Waterman Los Angeles Co.	5	44	32

SUMMARY

7 Rescues	13 - Inyo Co.
8 Searches for 10 people, 4 found alive, 4 found dead, and 2 not found	7 - Kern Co.
Alerts	2 - San Edno Co. 5
Transits	1 - Los Angeles Co. 4
2 Mobilizations	1 - Madera Co.
Incident	1 - Mariposa Co. 1
	1 - Tuolumne Co.
	1 - Fresno Co.
4,411 Total person hours	
1,264 Total NWC excused person hours	
13,460 Total vehicle miles	

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### 1984 Training Activities

- Map end Compass Class
- Helicopter Practice
- Ice Climbing Practice
- Stretcher Hut Night (2)
- Stretcher Practice (3)
- CLMRG Policy Training
- ELT Practice (2)
- River Rescue Practice Ice
- Axe/Snow Practice
- Noontime Tracking Practice (Monthly)
- Night Tracking Practice
- Stretcher Course (2)
- Avalanche Safety Course

Mike Mason

## 1984 EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENTS

Non-stretch Stretcher ropes	\$200.00
Orange Flagging tape	\$ 9.33
Maps	\$ 14.31
Ice Climbing ax	\$ 96.00
Plastic Stretcher (roll-up)	\$304.45
Pulleys (8)	\$ 92.00
PearBiners (12)	\$ 72.00
Radio Harnesses (3)	\$ 36.00
Tax	\$ 12.00
Climbing Ropes (Class monies)(3)	\$370.00
SKYMARK Flares (48)	\$239.12
Non-stretch Stretcher ropes	\$200.00
9mm x 165 Climbing ropes	\$150.00
Rope bags (8)	\$ 72.00
Slings sewn (25)	\$ 18.75
Maps	\$ 14.31
Climbing Ropes (5) 11mm x 165	\$500.00
CMI Pulley (1)	\$ 17.28
Gear slings (2)	\$ 8.00
50 ft 6mm sling	\$ 15.00
100 ft 1 in tubular webbing	\$ 19.00
CMI Pulleys (3)	\$ 38.00
Stuff Bag	\$ 11.00
Stretcher Harness / Pack rigging	\$ 32.26

Total for year \$2540.81

\*This does not include radio batteries, first aid equipment. or miscellaneous materiel which was not procured by the Quartermaster.

Tom Stogsdill

## 1984 Public Education

In 1984, the Public Education Committee Organized eleven presentations. Besides the NWC Airshow Demonstration, approximately 400 people were reached. A large, unknown number was reached at the Airshow. Twenty CLMRG members gave their time and effort to make public education presentations. This is nearly half our active roster.

Other activities of the Committee were publishing and distributing Talus Piles and keeping in contact with our donors with thank-you notes and Christmas cards.

Carol Burge



1984 CLMRG MEMBER OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

FIELD MEMBERS

NAME	TOTAL COMMITMENTS	FIELD OPERATIONS
AMSTER	15	7
MITCHELL	14	8
FINCO	14	7
HINMAN,D	14	5
HUEY	13	5
ADAMS	12	7
DERRICKSON	12	7
HINE	12	7
SEIBOLD	12	7
Harris, D	11	7
BONBRIGHT	11	6
STOGSDILL	11	5
GREEN	11	4
MARTIN	10	6
CASTRO	10	5
GLEASON	10	5
RENTA	10	4
SAKAI	9	5
JOY	9	4
WISECARVER	8	6
JONES	8	4
TerHeun	8	4
ROCKWELL,B	8	3
BURGE,D	7	3
Harris, D	7	3
MASON	7	2
VANVERST	6	3
BUFFUM	5	2
GEYER	5	2
SINCLAIR	4	4
RODGERS	4	3
ATKINS	4	1
MADDOX	4	1
HYDE	3	3
BROWN	3	0
FLETCHER	2	1
SHERMAN	2	1
WOODWORTH	2	1
ANDERSON,V	2	0
ANDERSON,L	1	1
BRUBAKER	1	1
ELAM	1	1
BRAINERD	1	0
LUCAS	1	0
OSTERMAN	1	0

COORDINATORS

	TOTAL NAME COMMITMENTS
ROCKWELLS	8
WESTBROOK,J	7
WYATT	7
HINMAN,N	6
SLATES	5
Burge, C	4

## DONOR'S CORNER

CLMRG would like to thank the following for recent donations: Robert Trousdale, Mojave Primitive Encampment (Judy Clemens), and Roland Robbins (CLMRG Life Member and author of Mantracking). Their continued support of the Group is deeply appreciated!

## EDITOR'S CORNER

We enjoyed Russ Huse's poem, "*Mountain Moods*," in the March-April 1985 issue of the popular mountaineering magazine, Summit. Russ is a Life Member of CLMRG. This fascinating poem, along with others written by Russ, also appeared in a volume presented to him by his Rotary Club of Westlake Village, California. At the front of the volume was the inscription " ..... presented in loving tribute to Russell Huse – a man, taller than the tallest mountain .....". An apt description, in so many ways.

Sheila