



February 1986  
#64

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

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 15-17	Mt. Sill	Rockwell
FEBRUARY 22-23	Lee Vining Ice Climbing	Finco
MARCH 1-2	Horseshoe Meadows Snow Trip	Lucas
MARCH 8-9	Stretcher Practice	Training Committee
MARCH 10	Meeting	Rockwell
MARCH 15-16	Olanca, SE Couloir	Derrickson
MARCH 29-30	Red Rock Area (Las Vegas)	Lucas
APRIL 5-6	Tracking Seminar	Stogsdill
APRIL 12-13	Boundary & Montgomery	Sherman
APRIL 14	Meeting	Jones/Sherman

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*You cannot stay on the summit forever;  
you have to come down again . . . .  
So Why bother in the first place? (Just this: what is above  
knows what is below, but what is below  
does not know what is above.  
One climbs, one sees. One descends, one sees no longer  
but one has seen.  
There is an art of conducting oneself in the lower regions  
by the memory of what one saw higher up.  
When one can no longer see, one can at least still know.*

- rene daumai

## OPERATION REPORTS

85-25            11/11/85                            Mobilization                            Horse Canyon                            Hinman  
While hunting southwest of Inyokern in Horse Canyon on 10 November, fifty year-old Otis Roberts became separated from his companions. The Kern County Sheriffs office was notified and the Indian Wells Valley SAR team was in the field by 1500 hours that day. Driving the roads in the area they were unable to locate Roberts by nightfall. That night a storm dropped 6 to 8 inches of snow in the area.

At 0845 hours the following day, Deputy Hutt of the Ridgecrest substation contacted CLMRG. It was still snowing. The roster was called for winter qualified people and people with 4-wheel drive vehicles; twelve members committed. While the team was mobilizing at the rescue hut, we learned through the radioperson at the adjoining IWVSAR hut that the missing hunter had been located. He was found near the top of Horse Canyon, walking north toward Walker Pass. He was in good condition in spite of having spent the night out in a sweatshirt and wind parka.

Committing to the operation were Stogsdill, Adams, Huey, Hine, D. Burge, Finco, Derrickson, Wisecarver, Jones, Sherman, Barbee and me. Coordinating were C. Burge and Aigner.

85-26            11/12-14/85                            Search    San Jacinto Mountains                            Hinman  
At 1345 hours on Tuesday, 12 November, Arnold Gaffery of the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team contacted CLMRG requesting assistance searching for several missing people in the San Jacinto mountains. The first major storm of winter had dropped several feet of snow the previous two days (mostly Monday night), apparently catching these people unprepared. A call out of winter-capable members found five people beside myself able to go - Hine, Mason, Mitchell, Derrickson, and Dan Harris. We left the CLMRG hut at 1530 hours and drove to Palm Springs, where we took the tram to the lodge at the top. Walt Walker of the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit was running base camp from the lodge.

Walker and Gaffery informed us that there were two missing parties. One consisted of four 23-year-old backpackers from San Diego - Burney and Jerry Wich, Ema Frey and Paul Luce. They had left Humber Park the previous Saturday for a three day trip into the area. A Wilderness Ranger had talked to them on Monday. At that time they were several miles from their roadhead and trying to hike out, but they were going the wrong way. He corrected their direction and they continued hiking through the eight inches of new snow. They were reasonably equipped to survive the storm, but they were not prepared to travel in what was now three feet of snow.

The other missing party was 30-year-old Rudy Brown. He was a Seasonal Ranger who was very familiar with the area. He had begun his trip from the top of the tram on Saturday and intended to make a loop near San Jacinto and Jean peaks and return Monday. He also had reasonable equipment for surviving the storm , but no snowshoes. Several teams from Riverside and Sierra Madre were in the field for the night. We bedded down in preparation for an early start in the morning.

Wednesday broke with the first good weather in several days: clear and calm , but cold. The Sheriff's contract helo, using the roof of the lodge as a landing pad, came in early to pick up observers for an initial look at the search area. Very quickly two tents were located which appeared to be the four-person party. Rescuers landed and after a short walk confirmed this. More rescuers were put down with extra snowshoes to walk the victims, who were in good condition, back to the helicopter. They were flown to base camp where it was learned that

they had wisely elected to remain in their tents awaiting rescue, rather than to attempt wading through the snow to get out.

Meanwhile, others were being helo'd in to search for Brown. By this time, searchers had arrived from the Los Padres and San Diego MRA teams. Some 24 people and two helos spent the day in the field. Traveling was difficult even with snowshoes. No trace of Brown was found.

On returning to base camp that evening, we learned that there was now another person missing in the area. Fifty-year-old John Kivlen of Playa Del Rey had left the tram on Saturday for a day hike. He was dressed in tennis shoes and light clothes, obviously totally unprepared for the severe weather he would face. That night base camp was moved to the Grande Vista Forest Service Station near Idylwild to concentrate the search on the west side of the search area and provide a better base camp LZ for the three helos which were to be used the following day.

On Thursday Kevin Walker took over as operation leader. This day also broke with good weather and search teams were helo'd to their various assignments. At approximately 1330, Rudy Brown walked in to the Ranger Station near the top of the tram. He had severely frostbitten hands and feet. Within an hour he was helo'd to the hospital in Palm Springs. He had spent Monday night on the summit of San Jacinto Peak and began walking toward the tram on Tuesday. During his descent he fell through the snow into a large hole between some rocks, and elected to bivouac. He remained there through Wednesday, at which time he heard the helo flying over, but stayed in the hole. Thursday morning he began his final walk to the tram.

Search teams were pulled out of the area by late afternoon. The search operation was discontinued because no sign of Kivlen had been found since his disappearance six days earlier. We returned to China Lake at 2100 hours. S. Rockwell, Aigner and Braun coordinated the operation.

#### Comments:

1. This was technically a winter operation; however the weather was good and never threatening. Only one of the six CLMRG members had a "W" (our call roster designation for a fully qualified winter rating). Had the weather taken a turn for the worse, some of the people would have been uncomfortable with their marginal equipment.
2. We traveled in three-person teams. Each person had a sleeping bag, pad and bivouac sack. Each team had two radios, a stove and one shovel, but no tent. This allowed us to travel safely and relatively light but assured a reasonable bivouac.
3. Navigation was a challenge since we were unfamiliar with the area and there are few outstanding landmarks (especially when you can't see anything but the trees around you). An altimeter was very useful.

Ed. Note: The following month Kivlen's body was found in a hollow cedar tree. He was a victim of hypothermia.

85-27

11/13/85

Alert

Matterhorn Peak

Rockwell

When two climbers did not return from an attempt on Matterhorn Peak in the Sierra Nevada near Bridgeport, a CRMRA Region alert was initiated. We were contacted midafternoon on 13 November by Dick Sale of the Sierra

Madre SAR Team. Dick said that helicopters were currently searching and if nothing had turned up by the end of the day, the alert would be converted to a full call out.

Because of heavy snow and severe winter conditions from the recent storm, only fully equipped and experienced personnel were considered. In spite of the fact that we already had a team in the field (see #85-26 above), five people were able to go. Fortunately, at about 1630 hours, Dick called back and said that the problem had been resolved,

Members committing: Finco, Amster, Wisecarver, Jones and me. Coordinators were Wyatt, Aigner and S. Rockwell.

85-28                      12/11-12/85                      Search                      Joshua Tree                      Adams

At about 2000 hours on 11 December CLMRO was called by the Sierra Madre SAR Team to participate in a search for four girls in Joshua Tree National Monument. The girls (aged 15 through 17) were on a two-week backpacking trip sponsored by their high school. During the last five days of the trip they had divided into small groups and were expected to navigate cross-country to a predetermined rendezvous point without the aid of an instructor. Instructors were to follow, out of sight, but close enough to be of assistance if something went wrong. A moderately heavy snow ( 6 to 8 inches) on 10 December followed by high winds and cold temperatures resulted in loss of tracks. Since the instructors no longer knew where the girls were, and in light of the weather conditions, a decision was made to institute a search immediately.

We responded to the call out with 7 members who departed China Lake at 2200 hours on 11 December, and arrived in Joshua Tree at 0200 on the 12th. We were briefed and in the field in an hour. About 9 hours later, word came that the girls had been spotted and airlifted out by helicopter. After the debriefing we left for home and arrived back at the but at 1800 hours on 12 December. Members participating were: Huey, Derrickson, Amster, Barbee, McDowell, Roberts and me. Coordinators were S. Rockwell, Wyatt and C. Burge.

Comment:

The personnel of Joshua Tree National Monument have developed considerable skill in the organization and management of large searches. The search operation proceeded efficiently and smoothly.

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Peanuts



## 1985 COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Equipment - Allen Jones

Major expenditures during the year:

4 Midland radios -	\$1,929
4 edge rollers -	274
2 P. M. I ropes -	200
48 signal smokes -	239

### First Aid - Larry Gleason

The primary accomplishments of the First Aid Committee during the year were the conduct of the annual CPR refresher and the usual two first aid advanced review sessions, this year with a slight twist. Upon taking a poll, the membership was approximately evenly divided between having a single all-day first aid review and the traditional session spread over five nights. The first session (April) was a one-day review of Topic II while the second session (October) was a five-evening review of Topic III.

Members taking classes:

Advanced First Aid	36
Standard or Multi-Media First Aid	13
CPR	42
EMT	2

### Training Committee - Mike Mason

Lunch time tracking practices - 11

Stretcher practices - 3 (one night practice)

Stretcher hut night - 2

Helicopter techniques seminar

Helicopter practice

Radio hut night

Search case study night

Ice axe practice

Sign cutting practice

Search practice

E. L. T. practice

Map and compass practice

Public Education - Mary Wyatt

Girl Scout Mojave Primitive Encampment - demonstrations and teaching

"Hug-a Tree" presentations - 19

Radio interview with CLMRG

NWC Theatre presentation on Mt. Whitney hazards and rescues; "Hug-a-Tree"

Talks on mountain safety -4

Briefing to NWC pilots on role of SAR helicopters in CLMRG rescues

NWC Recreation Department Fun Festival - manned static display

Ridgecrest Hospital Emergency Services Week - manned static display; stretcher lowerings

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DONOR'S CORNER

Our donor list has very familiar names on it this month. We sincerely appreciate your continuing support! Our thanks goes to Terry and Virginia Stirling, Fred and Esther Bode (in memory of their friend, Wally Henry), CLMRG Life Member Nick and Lisa Bottka, Maxine Scheibner, Beth Henry, and CLMRG Life Member Russ and Edith Huse.

EDITOR'S CORNER

The membership enjoyed the notes and cards from all of you who wrote during the Christmas holidays. It is gratifying to know that people read and learn from the Talus Pile. Thank you for your kind comments!

From the latest issue of Summit Magazine:

**Climbing Can Elevate HDLs in the Blood**

HDL is the good cholesterol that cleans out the arteries instead of clogging them up. Climbing can be beneficial in the fight against cholesterol. For example, 13 members of the Australian National University Mountaineering Club took part in an 8-week climb in the Himalayas. They ranged from 22 to 43 years old. During the 8 weeks their body weight did not change significantly, alcohol consumption fell to zero, and only 2 men smoked (5 cigarettes daily). Their food intake increased and consisted mainly of carbohydrates.

Within 3 weeks, the climbers' average HDL concentration almost doubled and stayed at that level for the rest of the climb. Although physical exertion was given most of the credit, exposure to cold, high altitude and reduced oxygen in the air may also have played some role. —Prevention, 10-85 [The Rescue Rucksack, Tacoma]

**Of Feet and Wheels**

The general estimate of people using Forest Service trails in Washington is: 10,000 horseback riders, 18,000 motorcyclists, 350,000 hikers, and an unknown number using short nature trails.

However, there has been a loss of trails for hiking because of the Forest Service's dedication to "a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities": that is, "multiple use trails" which the Forest Service is improving to encourage motorcycle use. In some areas trails are already so heavily used by motorcycles that hikers have been displaced. If the Forest Service continues to encourage ORV use, hikers will be displaced from most of the multiple use trails, and if ever the ORVs outnumber hikers, from the Wilderness, too.

To gain a day's pleasure, a hiker covers 6 to 12 miles, and a motorcyclist 20 to 50 or, if the trail is smooth enough, 80 miles. Hikers account for 85% of trail use, but 72% of trail funds are allotted to improve trails for motorcycles. —Ira Spring, Signpost, 10-85

## China Lake Mountain Rescue Group 1985 Operations

OP#	DATE	OPERATION	LOCATION	# OF MEMBERS	TOTAL PERSON HRS	NWC EXCUSED PERSON HRS	MILES
85-1	3 Jan	Alert. Airliner crash, handled by Bolivian climbers	Mt. Illimani Bolivia, S. America	10	30	10	0
85-2	5 Jan	Search. Missing person, not found	Garlock Kern Co.	5	29	0	300
85-3	3 Mar	Alert. Overdue 4 WD's, found by Deputies	Chimney Peak Kern Co.	26	15	0	0
85-4	3-4 Apr	Search. Suspected plane crash, false report	Spanish Needle Kern Co.	23	198	48	280
85-5	19-21 Apr	Search. Missing suicidal person, not found	Whitney Portal Inyo Co.	15	332	54	1000
85-6	20 Apr	Incident. Climber with broken leg, evacuated by helo	Joshua Tree Nat'l Monument San Bernardino Co.	2	14	0	0
85-7	19 May	Alert. Overdue hikers, found by Park Service	Yosemite Nat'l Park Mariposa Co.	10	12	0	0
85-8	20-21 May	Rescue. Climber with multiple injuries, lowered on snow and carried out	Bench Lake Inyo Co.	19	327	208	1100
85-9	3 Jun	Rescue. Injured climber, evacuated by Forest Service	Mt. Whitney Inyo Co.	24	107	61	880
85-10	10-11 Jun	Recovery. Suicide victim found in local hills, carried out	Ridgecrest Kern Co.	14	52	0	40
85-11	11-12 Jun	Rescue. Climber stranded overnight, climbed down on own	Mt. Whitney/Keeler Needle Couloir Inyo Co.	17	249	80	950
85-12	28 Jun	Transit. Missing hiker, found dead	Trinity Alps Trinity Co.	9	91	56	600
85-13	28 Jun-1 Jul	Search. Missing backpacker, found dead	Yosemite Nat'l Park Toulome Co.	9	382	35	880
85-14	12-13 Jul	Rescue. Climber with multiple injuries, evacuated by helo	Mt. Whitney Inyo Co.	15	216	0	800
85-15	21-22 Jul	Rescue. Climber with multiple injuries, evacuated by helo	Meysan Lakes Inyo Co.	15	150	56	600
85-16	8-10 Aug	Search. Missing backpacker, found O.K.	Yosemite Nat'l Park Mariposa Co.	9	314	56	1575
85-17	9-10 Aug	Alert. Missing hiker, found O.K.	Yosemite Nat'l Park Toulome Co.	7	7	0	0
85-18	22 Aug	Alert. Stranded climber, rescued by others	Whitney Portal Inyo Co.	14	12	11	0
85-19	4-6 Sep	Rescue. Backpackers stranded in snowstorm, evacuated by helo	Mt. Whitney Inyo Co.	21	991	285	1400
85-20	16-18 Sep	Search. Missing backpacker, found dead	San Gabriel Mtns Los Angeles Co.	11	291	131	825
85-21	19 Sep	Search. Missing person, not found	Randsburg Kern Co.	14	28	0	50
85-22	23 Sep	Search. Overdue climbers, walked out on own	Mt. Whitney Inyo Co.	9	65	33	400
85-23	5-6 Oct	Search. Missing camper, found O.K.	Yosemite Nat'l Park Toulome Co.	8	80	0	880
85-24	11 Oct	Search. Missing hunter, found O.K.	San Gabriel Mtns Los Angeles Co.	5	38	15	280
85-25	11 Nov	Mobilization. Missing hunter, found O.K.	Horse Canyon Kern Co.	14	14	0	0
85-26	12-14 Nov	Search. Missing backpackers, four found O.K., one found injured and one not found	San Jacinto Mtns Riverside Co.	9	337	114	720
85-27	13 Nov	Alert. Overdue climbers, walked out on own	Matterhorn Peak Mono Co.	8	8	0	0
85-28	11-12 Dec	Search. Missing backpackers, found O.K.	Joshua Tree Nat'l Monument San Bernardino Co.	10	229	48	950

### SUMMARY

#### OPERATIONS:

8 Rescues  
 12 Searches for 20 people  
   15 found alive  
   2 found dead  
   3 not found  
 6 Alerts  
 1 Mobilization  
 1 Transit  
 1 Incident  
 1 Recovery

#### REQUESTING AGENCIES:

9 - Inyo Co. Sheriff  
 6 - Kern Co. Sheriff  
 6 - Yosemite National Park  
 2 - Joshua Tree National Monument  
 2 - Los Angeles Co. Sheriff  
 1 - Riverside Co. Sheriff  
 1 - Trinity Co. Sheriff  
 1 - Scott Air Force Base

#### STATISTICS:

Total Person Hours - 4618  
 NWC Excused Hours - 1317  
 Total Vehicle Miles - 14,510  
 Average Number of Members Participating - 12.8



*American Express? Certainly Sir!*