



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

May 1986  
#65

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

MAY 12	Meeting	D. Burge
MAY 17-18	White Mountain	Rockwell
MAY 24-26	Mt. Williamson	Hinman
MAY 30-JUNE 1	Sheriffs Seminar	Green
JUNE 3	Night ELT	Stogsdill
JUNE 6-8	CRMRA Seminar, Yosemite	Mitchell
JUNE 9	Meeting	Stogsdill
JUNE 10	Summer Class Begins	Hinman/Rockwell
JUNE 14	Telescope Peak Run	Mitchell
JUNE 21-22	Temple Crag	Hinman
JUNE 28,29	Class Day Trips: Telescope Peak	Hinman/Rockwell
JULY 4-6	Clarence King	Rockwell
JULY 11-AUGUST 11	CLMRG Expedition to Pamir's, USSR	Rockwell
JULY 12-13	Class Overnight Trips: Cirque, Olancha, Carillon, Gould	Hinman
JULY 14	Meeting	Ingle

**CROCK** By Rechin and Wilder



## OPERATION REPORTS

86-1

1/14-17/86

Search

Saline Valley

Renta

Barry and Louise Berman of Goleta, California, arrived at Palm Springs in the Saline Valley sometime during the evening of 6 January. They parked their Datsun truck by one of the pools.

It was not until seven days later, after the volunteer BLM caretaker, Chili Bob, came back to the not springs that the Inyo County Sheriff was notified by radio of the apparently abandoned truck.

Sergeant Dan Lucas of the Sheriff's Office and eight members of the Inyo County Sheriff's Posse began searching the next day, 14 January. The area around Palm Springs and the flat terrain to the south of the springs was searched. The truck's contents were examined and inventoried. A camera containing exposed film was found. The film was sent to Bishop to be developed. CLMRG was contacted at 1330 hours.

Green, Jones, Mitchell. Gleason, Geyer, Ingle, McDowell, Silverman, Hill. Roberts. Roseman and I mobilized at the hut at 0330 on the 15th and arrived at the Lower Warm Springs base camp at about 0800 hours. The base camp was a half mile southwest of Palm Springs. Twelve members of Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue were also there, having arrived the previous evening.

By 0930 all the teams were in the field. Teams from the IWVSAR and CLMRG did a line search in the flat area to the northeast of Palm Springs. Trackers were sent to follow tracks found the previous day southeast of base camp. Additional trackers were to cut for sign along the main and old roads leading into Lower Warm Springs.

At noon a helo brought back the developed pictures taken by the Bermans. They showed both Barry and Louise in tennis or running shoes. Since the only shoes found in the truck had been cowboy boots, the field teams were able to use this information to discount several sets of tracks that had been found.

The most promising set of tracks. went due north from Palm Springs up a 1200 foot ridge. The tracks were followed two-thirds of the way up the ridge. A CLMRG team was heloed into the area by a California Highway Patrol Jet Ranger. The team followed a wash along the bottom of the ridge to the southwest but did not find any sign of the missing couple.

In addition to the CHP helo, we had two AH-1 Cobras from the VX-5 squadron at the Naval Weapons Center helping in the search. The flat areas to the southwest, around the dunes, the areas to the northeast and the northwest, in addition to the 1200 foot ridge, were all searched by air.

The next day we concentrated the search on the ridge north of base camp because of the tracks found in that area. Eighteen searchers were heloed to the top of the ridge in a single load by a CH-47 from the Stockton National Guard. From the top the searchers fanned out covering the drainages leading down to the valley floor and line-searched the southeast face lead-



One big helicopter!

ing to base camp. The CH-47 placed another team at the southwest end of the ridge. This team started from the tracks of the previous day's search on the northwest side of the ridge and ended their cut at base camp. As the teams came back to base they were reassigned.

IWVSAR cut a perimeter about a mile from base on the south side. Another search of the southwest end of the ridge was initiated. This time the team was started farther from the ridge along Waucoba Wash. By the end of the day all tracks found had been discounted either because of the shoe type that had made the track or the fact that the tracks led back to base camp. The Berman's truck was flown to Bishop in the CH-47 and impounded by the Sheriff.

IWVSAR, and CLMRG members Gleason and Geyer , returned to Ridgecrest that evening.

By Friday, 17 January, we felt that area had been well covered by foot and from the air. The best thing to do this day was to extend the foot search in the northeast, past the search of 15 January. If the Bermans had stayed on the road, they may have been able to leave the immediate search area without being detected. The search area was extended about one mile.

After four days of searching we had not able to find any evidence, other than the truck, that the Bermans had ever been at Palm Springs. We arrived back at Ridgecrest by 1830 hours the evening of 17 January.

Coordinators were S. Rockwell and C. Burge.

Comments:

1. At base camp we had radios broadcasting on three different frequencies. To prevent crosstalk the antennas had to be separated.
2. Helo support for this operation was very good; there were two Cobras from VX-5 (NWC), a Jet Ranger and Hughes 500 from the CHP , and a CH-47 and UH-1 from the Stockton National Guard. They were eager to help and easy to work with. Their assistance was greatly appreciated.
3. The total number of participants was 53 people.

86-2          1/17-19/86          Search Saline Valley          Hine

The search for Barry and Louise Berman was reactivated when the victim's family enlisted the assistance of a psychic. The combination of a three day weekend and having 12 of our people just return from the original search, cut the response to just Chuck Ringrose and me. We were to meet Sergeant Lucas and the Inyo team at the lower spring area at 0900 Saturday. Base camp was established and Pat Elliott assumed control of the operation (eight from Inyo, two from June Lake, one BLM ranger and us.)

The plan was to expand the original search area and follow any leads provided by the psychic. This was done, with the teams concentrating on the valley floor. All these efforts, including several leads from the psychic, failed to locate any sign of the missing couple.

Sunday was spent searching the drainages leading from Dry Mountain into the valley. These drainages are very steep narrow canyons that have a habit of containing polished dry waterfalls. Fortunately each of these obstacles could be bypassed with a minimum of risk.

As with the previous efforts, no trace of the victims was located. The operation was again called off late Sunday afternoon.

Other CLMRG personnel involved were Hinman and S. Rockwell.

86-3                      2/18-19/86                      Alert                      Twin Lakes                      Huey

At 1530 hours on 18 February I received a call from Walt Aron, the father of a suspected avalanche victim at Twin Lakes. Walt had been given the CLMRG telephone number by the Mono County Sheriff. He was interested in determining the existence and availability of a "heat seeking device" at the Naval Weapons Center that might be used in finding his son.

Two forward looking infrared (FLIR) devices, which provide images in the infrared portion of the spectrum, were located. (One was the AGA Thermovision which K.C. Wilson of the Weapons Department had demonstrated to CLMRG about 10 years ago.) The NWC Public Affairs Office stated that the Navy could support this incident since it appeared to be a life-threatening situation. A two man crew began readying the instruments. Upon calling the Mono County Sheriff's Office, I was told that the victim's father had been acting on his own. The Sheriff stated that conditions were too hazardous in the avalanche area to place any teams in the field at this time.

Three CLMRG members were placed on alert for the possibility of assisting the FLIR operators. More snow overnight, the forecast of continuing snow for several days, the danger of avalanches in the area, and the fact that the victim's chances of recovery with the FLIR were now remote, resulted in the cancelling of the alert on 19 February.

CLMRG personnel responding included S. Rockwell (Coordinator), B. Rockwell, Derrickson and me.

Comments:

1. Request for assistance should normally come directly from the Sheriffs Office. However, in this case, the victim's father had been given our number by the Sheriff. Therefore I treated it as an official request, at least for determining the availability of the special equipment.
2. The Optical Signatures Branch in the Weapons Department has the portable FL1Rs which can be used in search situations.
3. On 22 February the victim's body was found under 30' of snow by dog teams.

86-4                      4/6/86                      Transit                      Joshua Tree NP                      Huey

At 0500 hours I received a call from the China Lake Police who were trying to locate the JOSAR team members who were here for our tracking seminar. I was told that there was a search effort in Joshua Tree National Park. On calling the Park Office, I was told that searchers were needed to look for a 24 year old male, diabetic, who had not returned after a day hike on 5 April. There was additional concern since there was a cold front moving in and the man was dressed only in shorts and a T shirt. The JOSAR team and other teams here for the seminar were notified. CLMRG fielded 18 members. At Barstow a call was placed to the Park Headquarters. The man had been found (at home), and the search called off.

Members participating included: Hinman, B. Rockwell, Renta, Mason, Finco, Dan Harris, Amster, Martin, Joy, Wisecarver, Seibold, McDowell, DeRuiter, Roberts, Roseman, Walker and me. 5. Rockwell was the coordinator, with assistance from Wyatt and 3. Harris.

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A PAGE OUT OF THE PAST:

ROTS MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE GROUP  
April 27, 1961

<u>Name</u>	<u>Qualification</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>		<u>Code</u>
			<u>Work</u>	<u>Home</u>	
Heller, Carl	T W	110-B Nimitz	72832	725664	5059
Van Aken, Ray	T W	602-A Nimitz	72877	727264	4061
Bray, James	T W	531-D Nimitz	9266	725432	4512
Huse, Russell	T	205-A Wasp Rd	72641	725563	3566
Lewis, V.E.	T W	65-B Renshaw	72988	74712	3542
Ohl, John	T W	528-L Nimitz	8289	725504	3552
Eauer, Ernst	T W	50-A Ringgold	72869	73261	5017
Slatas, Richard	T W	408-A Tyler	72237	75952	5008
Anderson, Elizabeth	S	404-B Hornet	72801	<del>73905</del>	3566
Connable, Polly	S	237 Des. Candle		718-85991	
Elstrand, Mary Elizabeth	S	60-Blandy, Rm 27	72979	75795	3515
Reid, Glenn	S	73 Bard, Rm 25	9395		45
Bolstead, Bruce	C	75 Parsons, R.31	8411		3536
Daly, John	C	210-A Groves	72869	77941	5017
Ramsdall, Jack	S	212-B Mitscher	0577		
Spindler, Clint	T	75 Parsons, R 14	9271		
Buffum, Frank	S	75 Parsons, R 20	72630		

NOTES:

- T Qualified for Technical Rescue Work
- S Qualified for Support of Technical Rescue
- C Candidate
- W Winter Rescue Work

OFFICERS:

- Chairman ..... Carl Heller
- Secretary ..... Polly Connable
- Treasurer ..... Jim Bray
- Qualifying Committee ..... Virgil Lewis  
Ray Van Aken  
Carl Heller
- First Aid Committee ..... Jack Ramsdall  
Clint Spindler
- Publicity ..... Russell Huse
- Beginner's Practice ..... John Ohl

It goes without saying that physical conditioning - aerobic, altitude and strength conditioning - is paramount for the capable mountaineer and therefore for the mountain rescuer as well. Tasks which are simple and straightforward at sea level and on benign terrain can be quite different in a high altitude mountain rescue environment. The rescuer needs to not only take care of himself but to contribute to the success of the overall operation, under sometimes severe and dangerous objective conditions.

As with most things, the best exercise for mountaineering is to climb mountains regularly, especially high mountains, mountains of all classes. To this end, CLMRG has an extremely active training program which includes mountain climbs on virtually each weekend throughout the year. Current training events are synopsisized at the beginning of each issue of the Talus Pile, and of course it is participating in the totality of training exercises that makes for the complete search and rescue person". This article deals with one aspect of our training activities.

To encourage members to participate in the scheduled climbs, we generally select objectives which satisfy several constraints such as enjoyable routes, good views, historical interest, tradition, variety, etc. But there are a few things that we have come to do on a roughly regular basis that do not fit any of these categories. Simply put, they involve competition, sometimes rather bizarre, and set in a mountaineering environment. And therein lies their value: the mountaineer loves a challenge, be it against others, against conditions, or merely against himself. Challenge encourages participation, with its additional benefit of being able to gauge one's performance against others, perhaps resulting in an increased resolve to improve. Some examples are:

1. The Telescope Peak Run. Telescope Peak, at 11,049', is reached after a 7 mile trail which gains 3000' altitude. Its a nice day climb for most people, while a few make it a leisurely two day trip. So what better route on which to have a race? About 25 people run each year, and the best ascent time so far is 82 minutes,

2. Mt. Goddard Day Climb. Mt. Goddard (13,568') is in the heart of the Sierra. A climb usually involves three or more days because the route goes over two high passes, covers 32 miles and gains 8900'. Much of the route is cross country, some of it class 3: ropes are necessary for the novice. it's clearly impossible to do in 24 hours, and so - of course - we try In the first seven attempts we turned around short of the summit. Last year we made the summit but the round trip time was 29 hours. Four to eight usually participate. Stay tuned.

3. Mt. Whitney Marathon. Climbing Mt. Whitney by the Trail nominally takes two days. The round trip is 21 miles, so by starting just a couple of miles below the trailhead we can make it a marathon distance, 26.2 miles. The elevation gain is a long 7400'. Best time so far is 7 hours 10 minutes.

4. New Year's Ascents. Since 1978 we have selected various challenging objectives as an alternative to television football and the partying life. We choose climbs which are not at all trivial even in the summer . and so are Quite difficult in winter. We are therefore often unsuccessful. Examples from past years include North Palisade ( 14,242'), Mt. Sill (14,162'), and the Mexican Volcanoes ( -18,0001

5. Mt. Whitney Day Climbs. John Muir made the first ascent of the Mountaineer's Route on Mt. Whitney and it may be the most enjoyable way to climb the peak. Ascending this way and going down by the Trail is a valuable self test of physical conditioning, and we do it once or twice a year. An ascent time of 5 hours with the descent in 3 hours are good goals to reach for.

6. "B" Mountain at China Lake involves 1100' of elevation gain in a distance of 1.4 miles. Many of us do it daily, and it is certainly our most effective conditioning tool. A respectable ascent time is 25 minutes and for a long while it was felt that less than 20 minutes was not humanly feasible. There are now people who can make it in under 16 minutes! When in training for expeditions we carry packs for additional effect, sometimes as much as 100 pounds.

These are examples of the somewhat out of the ordinary conditioning activities that we participate in. Others include Telescope Peak from Badwater (day climb), the John Muir Trail in 8 days (25 lb. pack, no resupplies), and our out of country expeditions every few years. I also recall a memorable Seven-Peaks- In-One-WeeKend trip (a Carl Heller creation). Not always mountaineering in the traditional sense of the word, and certainly not activities in which everyone chooses to join. But the strong mountain rescuer is a product of many things. By encouraging participation, these challenging climbs contribute to our effectiveness in no small way.

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**DONOR'S CORNER**

We received some very generous donations in the past few months from Janet Hammond, Manuela Mitchell, and the Mojave Primitive Encampment. A donation from the American Legion Post #684 allowed the purchase of 5 more pagers. Now all Leaders in CLMRG carry them, hastening our response when time is critical. Thanks to all of you for your confidence and support!

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**What Determines How Hot It Feels?**

Under normal conditions, temperature and humidity are the most important elements influencing body comfort. This table from the National Weather Service shows the apparent temperature — how hot the weather feels — at various combinations of temperature and humidity.

Relative Humidity	Air Temperature										
	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120
0%	64	69	73	78	83	87	91	95	99	103	107
10%	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	111	116
20%	66	72	77	82	87	93	99	105	112	120	130
30%	67	73	78	84	90	96	104	112	123	135	148
40%	68	74	79	86	93	101	110	123	137	151	
50%	69	75	81	88	96	107	120	135	150		
60%	70	76	82	90	100	114	132	149			
70%	70	77	85	93	106	124	144				
80%	71	78	86	97	113	136					
90%	71	79	88	102	122						
100%	72	80	91	108							

"Degrees Fahrenheit



*"Years ago, they hiked the Appalachian Trail from end to  
end,  
and they never let you forget it."*

From the China Lake  
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