



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

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

MARCH 5-6	Mt. Morrison	Derrickson
MARCH 12	Rock Skills	Training Committee
MARCH 14	Meeting	Wyatt
MARCH 19-20	Mt. Goode	Rogers
MARCH 26	Stretcher Practice	Training Committee
APRIL 2-3	Piute Monument	Mason
APRIL 5	Advanced First Aid Class Begins	Mitchell
APRIL 9-10	Tracking Seminar	Training Committee
APRIL 11	Meeting	VanVerst
APRIL 16-18	Mt. Williamson	Rogers
APRIL 23/24	Snow Practice	Training Committee
MAY 7-8	Olancho Peak (East Ridge)	Rockwell
MAY 9	Meeting	Huey
MAY 13-14	Sheriffs Seminar	Training Committee
MAY 21-22	Owens Ridge Traverse	Hinman
MAY 28-30	Mt. Shasta (Whitney Glacier)	Rockwell
MAY 31	Radio Hut Night	Training Committee

**The Range of Light**

Upon John Muir's arrival in California, by steamer to San Francisco in 1868, he stepped off the boat and asked the first person he saw how to get out of town.

"But where do you want to go?" asked the startled passerby.

"To any place that is wild," answered Muir.

He immediately set out for the Sierra, not by stagecoach or on horseback but on foot. When first he beheld the range looming before him, he was inspired to give it a name which has since become synonymous with the name Sierra Nevada.

# SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

88-1 Ridgecrest Area	2/15/88	Rescue Hine
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The first operation of the year began at 1030 with the proverbial phone call during the shower. Officer Bittle of the Kern County Sheriff's Office informed me that Brett Halpin and Roger Polf had not been heard from since they had gone 4-wheel driving Sunday afternoon. Both men were considered responsible and would not miss work without notifying someone.

Officer Bittle asked me to coordinate CLMRG's efforts with the Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue Team (IWV). I got Sheila Rockwell to start a call out for as many members as possible to assemble at the but before 1200. I then called Dennis Clodt, IWV captain, for our assignment. He proposed that IWV search east of Highway 14 while CLMRG searched west of the highway. In this way IWV would cover the primary search area and we would search two canyons known to have been traveled by the pair in the past. By 1430 IWV was in their area and we had driven to our assigned location. Radio communications with search base had been established and field teams dispatched. The dust from the departing teams had hardly settled when Officer Bittle radioed that the two men had been located by bicyclists. Both men were fine and sitting in their truck. The only problem *was* that the truck *was* parked thirty five feet down a forty foot vertical mine shaft. Dennis Clodt reassigned the majority of his team to collect their mine rescue gear (primarily an A-frame and winch). The remainder of his team and CLMRG were vectored to the rescue site. By 1630 both men had been winched safely to the surface. At the time of this report, the vehicle was still wedged in the mine.

Other CLMRG members participating were: B. Rockwell, Finco, Mitchell, Martin and Walker. B. Meng and C. Burge assisted in the call out.

## AVALANCHE FIELD EXERCISE      Bob Adams

On 25 January the June Lake Mountain Rescue Team conducted a field avalanche training seminar for CLMRG. Fifteen members attended the training, which began with a lecture held at the June Lake Community Center. John Ellsworth discussed such topics as the primary factors which contribute to the creation of avalanche hazard, the recognition of avalanche terrain, and the peculiarities of the Sierra snowpack. After the lecture the group hiked a few hundred feet above the June Lake Power Plant for field exercises. We dug snow pits, analyzed the layers, examined the snow crystals and performed shovel shear tests. It soon became apparent that it requires considerable skill to confidently assess the avalanche hazard from a snow pit. As a final exercise we practiced locating buried avalanche transceivers. All in all it was a very productive and beneficial exercise for CLMRG. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to the June Lake Mountain Rescue Team and to John Ellsworth and Pete Schoerner, in particular, for their efforts.

### PEANUTS By Schulz



## COMMITTEE REPORTS - 1987

Financial Tom Roseman

**Income:**

United Way	\$7,850
Individual donations	1,222
Membership dues	96
Sale of materials	251
Interest	290
Mileage reimbursement (Kern Co)	1,160
Total Revenues:	\$11,269

**Expenses:**

Equipment*	\$4,644
Telephone	902
Postage	118
Maintenance	322
Printing	599
Transportation on operations	2,703
Conferences, meetings	176
Membership dues	202
Miscellaneous	219
Total Expenses:	\$9,885

\*Major items of equipment purchased were pagers (2), radios (3), stretcher wheel, maps, batteries.

Treasury balance at end of year: \$6,974

First Aid Howard Derrickson

The past year *was* typical for CLMRG. Thirty-one members are up-to-date in advanced first aid going into 1988. Thirty-three are current in CPR.

Two items of equipment are being considered. A hyperbaric bag *for* mountain sickness victims was seen at the annual meeting of the American Alpine Club. Al Green is circulating literature on this item at this time. The bag is not presently available for purchase, but it is something to consider when it is.

We are also considering make-up kits for simulated injuries and poisonings. The better ones are rather expensive, and no decision to recommend purchase *has* been made. Their value as a training aid will need to be weighed carefully against cost.

Public Education Mary Wyatt

CLMRG participated in the following activities during 1987: Six "Hug a Tree" presentations, Desert Empire Fair parade, presentations on mountain safety to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Kiwanis, Pan Am Management Club, American Legion, NWC Safety meetings and Beverly Manor. Knot tying demonstrations for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Girl Scout Primitive Encampment (demonstrations and teaching), NWC Recreation Department (manned static display), Volunteer Fireman Benefit (manned static display), Summer Mountaineering Class, radio interview on local radio station, CLMRG climbs in Russia to Las Flores School and to the Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society.

Operations Al Green

Operations:	Statistics:
5 rescues	3,985 person hours
1 recovery	1,095 NWC excused hours
13 searches	15,694 vehicle miles
10 alerts	11 average number of
3 transits	members participating

47 subjects:

- 36 found OK
- 3 found dead (2 mountaineering, 1 apparent suicide)
- 4 found injured
- 4 not found (last year's Saline Valley couple again, Death Valley hiker, Sequoia Park skier)

By requesting agency: By month:

19 Inyo County	1 January
3 Kern County	2 February
3 Yosemite NP	1 March
1 Mono County	1 April
1 Tulare County	8 May
1 Santa Barbara County	4 June
1 Riverside County	6 July
1 Sequoia/Kings NP	2 August
1 Death Valley NM	3 September
1 Scott Air Force Base	4 October
	0 November
	0 December

CLMRG OPERATIONS FOR 1987			RESULT	LOCATION	MEMBERS	HOURS	NWC HRS	MILES
	DATE	OPERATION						
87-1	1/5	Search for 3 overdue from a snow outing	found ok	Kennedy Meadows	23	129	123	620
87-2	2/18-20	Search for Robert Simmons, XC skier found next summer in a lake	not found	Sequoia & Kings Cyn Ntl Park	18	195	64	830
87-3	2/22	Search for overdue motorcyclists in Horse Canyon area	found ok	Kern Co	14	63		439
87-4	3/25	Alert for F-4 crash, San Gorgonio Mtns		San Bernardino Co	7	4	10	
87-5	4/5	Search for Bermans again in Saline	not found	Inyo Co	7	21		
87-6	5/1-3	Search for missing hiker	not found	Death Valley	22	906	144	1919
87-7	5/2	Alert for man down a mineshaft north of Keeler	IWVSAR handled	Inyo Co	4	4		
87-8	5/4	Alert for Mt. Heller climbers	hiked out	Inyo Co	21	23		
87-9	5/10	Rescue of two boys stranded above second falls in Great Falls Basin	rescued	Inyo Co	8	49		140
87-10	5/10	Alert for missing hiker in Yosemite	found ok	Yosemite N.P.	6	3		
87-11	5/12	Search for 5 yr old boy who ran away from Cerro Coso day care center	found ok	Kern Co	23	87	63	130
87-12	5/24-25	Transit for 20 yr old, missing from group hike in Santa Barbara Mtns	found ok	Santa Barbara Co	6	63		790
87-13	5/29	Search for Craig Oien near Third Lake (apparent suicide)	found dead	Inyo Co	17	288		1100
87-14	6/14	Mobilization for what was thought to be a plane crash	old wreck	Kern Co	8	9		
87-15	6/21	Alert for overdue hang glider	found ok	Inyo Co	11	12		
87-16	6/21-22	Rescue of Stan & Craig Le Banthal from top of Whitney - trail hikers	rescued	Inyo Co	11	186	56	502
87-17	6/24-26	Search for Larry Morgan in Tuolumne Mdw	found ok	Yosemite N.P.	10	183	65	892

87-18	7/3	Alert for overdue hiker, Bishop Pass	found ok	Inyo Co	8	12		
87-19	7/12-13	Rescue of Bill Stratton, ankle injury on Split Mtn	broken ankle	Inyo Co	13	37	32	
87-20	7/12	Rescue of Whitney trail hikers Annette Jackson & son Ryan	rescued	Inyo Co	12	43		560
87-21	7/21	Search for 3 Palisades climbers	found ok	Inyo Co	15	137	80	1325
87-22	7/27-29	Rescue of Hummie Mann from Whitney face	broken knee	Inyo Co	18	713	238	1160
87-23	7/28	Alert for 4 Whitney trail hikers	found ok	Inyo Co	6	8		
87-24	8/6-8	Search for Samuel Ma in White Wolf area	found ok	Yosemite N.P.	6	74	28	666
87-25	8/15	Alert for false sighting of stranded climber above Lower Boy Scout Lake		Inyo Co	4	4		
87-26	9/5-6	Alert for injured climber near the Dana plateau	June Lake handled	Mono Co	6	12		
87-27	9/6	Transit for injured man in car over the cliff, highway 190, Father Crowley Pt	wrecker handled	Inyo Co	6	24		472
87-28	9/16	Recovery of fatally injured climber	recovered	Inyo Co	11	223	96	774
87-29	10/1	Search for overdue climber in the Palisades	found dead	Inyo Co	10	122	56	1020
87-30	10/9	Search for missing 70 yr old	found alive	Riverside Co	8	110	40	710
87-31	10/11-12	Search for injured climber in Palisades	hiked out	Inyo Co	13	209		1095
87-32	10/24	Transit for overdue Mt Whitney climber	hiked out	Inyo Co	11	32		550
TOTALS					352	3985	1095	15694

## PEANUTS By Schulz



## 30 YEARS WITH THE CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

While our team was officially organized 30 years ago in 1958, initial plans were being laid in 1957. The Sheriff of Inyo County, concerned by the growing numbers of people getting into trouble on the steep mountains of the eastern Sierra, had asked a small group of climbers at China Lake to teach climbing skills to his SAR deputies. It was soon discovered that it was far more reasonable to teach SAR skills to mountaineers, and the China Lake "Occasional Peaks Gang" was willing to learn.

Dennis Burge's scrapbook shows a letter written by Carl Heller to the Inyo County Sheriff on 20 November 1957, in which Carl proposes the names of 9 mountaineers from the OPG to comprise the NOTS Mountain Rescue Group. (The Naval Weapons Center (NWC) was called the Naval Ordnance Test Station prior to the late 1960's.)

A later communication, in March 1958, mentions these same 9 names but it is clear that a formal organization was now in existence. The original call roster, then, looked something like this:

### 1958 Roster

Carl Heller (chairman)  
Kermith Ross (corresponding secretary)  
Ray Van Aken (qualifications)  
Jim Bray (recording secretary)  
Russ Huse (qualifications)  
Virgil Lewis  
Richard Breitenstein  
John Ohl  
Bob Stein

In 1958 Ridgecrest *was* a town, but nobody really lived there. Entertainment consisted of the 104 movies on the base every other night, traveling to San Bernardino for shopping, and of course climbing almost every weekend. For a number of the early years, there were only one or two (or zero!) operations per year.

Ten years later, in 1968, the roster had grown to 22 names, with different categories now being recognized. The roster filled up one side of a sheet of paper, but it took double spacing

to do it. NOTS was now NWC and to reach anyone on the base you had to dial FRontier 5-1411 and then the 5-digit extension number, so call outs took a while. A handful of members now lived in Ridgecrest.

### 1968 ROSTER

#### OPERATION LEADERS

Arold Green (qualifications)  
Jim Nichols  
Dennis Burge (president)  
Carl Heller (qualifications)  
John Ohl  
Ernst Bauer

#### TECHNICAL TEAM

Frank Buffum  
Russ Huse  
Joe McIntire  
Charles Ringrose  
Ray Van Aken  
Robert Westbrook

#### SUPPORT TEAM

Elizabeth Anderson  
Gary Babcock  
Fred Bien (treasurer)  
Nick Botka  
John Castel  
Robert Joy  
Jay Witcher

#### TELEPHONERS

Sue Anderson  
Carol Burge  
Janet Gerhart (secretary)

By 1978 nearly everyone lived in Ridgecrest. Our structure had become more formalized. We had moved into our new rescue hut, an expansive affair by comparison with the old one. We still climbed a lot. Liz Anderson quit as Talus Pile editor, as she would do from time to time throughout her CLMRG career. But she always came back. (Liz, are you listening?)

We were now a United Way agency, which was a great relief to our pocketbooks. A glance at the financial report elsewhere in this issue will show how important this item is to us.

The call roster was still on one page, but it took single spacing, together with some creativity, to list the 39 names with the other necessary information:

### 1978 ROSTER

#### OPERATION LEADERS

Carl Heller (qualifications, chm.)  
Arold Green (qualifications)  
Lee Lucas  
Bill Stronge  
Bob Rockwell (qualifications)  
Bob Westbrook  
Dennis Burge  
Ronald Atkins (MRA representative)  
Don Harris  
Fred Camphausen (vice president)  
Frank Buffum (president)

#### RESCUE TEAM

Terry Moore  
Robert Joy  
Dave Brown  
Mike Mason

#### SUPPORT TEAM

Gene St. Denis  
Dianne Lucas  
Bob Hunt  
Tom Stogsdill (secretary)  
Mike Renta  
Liz Anderson  
Mike Walters  
Harry Garner  
Marty Landau  
Roland Robbins  
Hank Snell

#### TRAINEES

Forest Lloyd  
B. J. Holden  
Dick Gleeson  
John Swanson  
Greg Cote  
Chris Ostermann  
Ron Jones  
Daryl Hinman

#### COORDINATORS

Joann Garner  
Sheila Rockwell  
Barbara Slates  
Carol Burge  
Janet Westbrook (treasurer)

Here in 1988 the call roster shows 45 field members, 6 special skills members, 4 inactive members and 2 applicants. It now spans two pages. Everyone should have a current copy, so it is not included here.

This year's officers are:

Tom Stogsdill (president)  
Mike Mason (vice president)  
Bill Martin (secretary)  
Tom Roseman (treasurer)  
Linda Finco (MRA representative)

The Qualifications Committee is:

Daryl Hinman (chairman)  
Al Green  
Bob Rockwell

We have committees (and chairpersons) to perform a variety of other continuing and ad hoc functions:

Search & Rescue Training (Mike Renta)  
First Aid Training (Andrew Mitchell)  
Public Education (Mary Wyatt)  
Equipment/Communications (Bill Martin)  
Sheriff's Committee (Bart Hine);  
CLMRG Manual (Mike Mason)  
Summer Class (Andrew Mitchell)  
JOSAR Certification (Tom Stogsdill)  
Mt. Heller (Carol Burge)

Talus Pile editors are Sheila & Bob Rockwell.

Our schedule still shows training climbs of various kinds on almost every weekend throughout the year: mountains, rock, snow and ice. Some things never change.

But what has changed is the number and variety of other training experiences conducted by CLMRG for its members. Glance at the front page of this issue to get a current "snapshot"

Our operational activity has been hovering at around 30 per year for quite a while, after having grown slowly in the early years. About 20 or a bit more turn out to be field operations, with usually a few more searches than rescues each year. And there always seems to be one or two operations in the "interesting event" category.

Any predictions about what things are going to be like in 1998?

## DONOR'S CORNER

Our donor list this month consists entirely of familiar names. Our thanks go to William and Lois Adamsen (Carl Heller's sister); long time donors Fred Bode, and Terry and Virginia Stirling (friends of Wally Henry); and more recent repeat donors: Rick Strasser, and the Oasis Garden Club & Glenn Roquemore. Clark Trowell, who was a member of CLMRG a number of years ago, sent a donation. Thank you all!

## THE MAIL BOX

### *Nicholas Bottka*

Dear CLMRG friends,  
Just a note of thanks for thinking of us flatlanders. We enjoyed reading the latest Talus Pile. Happy to hear that Russ Huse is still active and writing poetry in his retirement. Just as a historical note, the reason that Russ always carried such a massive load on trips was because he had a few six packs of Coors among his climbing gear. We old timers made sure that the emergency rations were never forgotten.

Happy New Year.

### The Daily Independent

## Rescuers thanked

To the Editor:

We are writing this letter to everyone involved in our rescue from the mine shaft on the 15th of February. This is a letter of thanks to the Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue Team, the China Lake Mountain Rescue Team, and the Kern County Sheriffs Department.

What many people do not realize is that the efforts of the rescue teams are all voluntary, and without these teams of individuals, people like us would have little chance for survival of a life threatening situation. The long hours, of training and skill were easily seen in our rescue. Not enough credit and thanks can be given to all of you involved in these efforts. This is by far one of the most valuable community service organizations, and should be one of the first to be considered when making a donation to a worthy cause.

We would especially like to extend our most sincere thanks to Mike Fox and Patti Keon. We literally owe our lives to these two people. If it was not for them, we could quite possibly still be in the mine shaft. All that we can do is say thank you and know that they have the distinction of being real life heroes. They will always be remembered and hold a special place in our lives.

Again, a special thanks to the volunteers, families and friends that were a part of the life saving ordeal of Feb. 15.

Glenn Polf  
Brett Halpin

### **"Because It's There"**

**"If one should ask me what 'use' there was in climbing, or attempting to climb the world's highest peak, I would be compelled to answer 'none.' There is no scientific end to be served; simply the gratification of the impulse of achievement, the indomitable desire to see what lies beyond that ever beats within the heart of man. With both poles conquered, the mighty peak of the Himalaya remains as the greatest conquest available to the explorer."**

**- George Leigh Mallory  
sometime in 1924**



An article in the January, 1988, issue of *Backpacker* begins:

"The annals of great mountaineers are filled with physical rejects - poor specimens who were never picked for the team in physical education classes at school. Then they discovered the wildly individualistic world of climbing, where mental strength is far more important than brute force, where daring and drive overcomes all. The greatest mountaineers envision possibilities often nearly unimaginable to their contemporaries, .. then they realize them. These are people who build on those who came before, but always dream a step beyond. They are not simply there at the right place and time; they **make** the place and time."

Backpacker then, "with unlimited subjectivity", lists the "10 Best" mountaineers:

- A. F. Mummery\*
- Willo Welzenbach\*
- Ricardo Cassin
- Eric Shipton
- Hermann Buhl\*
- Gaston Rebuffat
- Walter Bonati
- Christian Bonington+
- Renato Casarotto\*
- Reinhold Messner+

+currently active  
\* killed while climbing

And the ones to watch:

- Jerzy Kukuczka
- Voytek Kurtyka
- Jeff Lowe\*
- John Roskelley\*
- Doug Scott
- Jean-Marc Boivin
- Christophe Profit
- Erhard Loretan
- Jean Troillet
- Greg Child

\*Americans



MAJOR WATER USERS AROUND THE WORLD

Water Withdrawn from Environment (cubic yards/person/day)

	Consumed	Discharged	Total
China .....	1.0	0.7	1.7
India .....	1.0	0.8	1.8
U.S.S.R. ....	2.1	1.7	3.8
U.S.A.....	2.1	7.5	9.6

Uses of Water Withdrawn

	Irrigation	Industry	Domestic
China .....	93%	5%	2%
India .....	96	3	1
U.S.S.R. ....	51	45	4
U.S.A.....	33	59	8

Water Program Outlays

	1979 Per Capita	% of GNP
China .....	\$ 0.50	0.1
India .....	6.00	3.5
U.S.S.R. ....	25.00	0.5
U.S.A .....	185.00	1.8

Source: *Technology Review*, Nov./Dec. 1986.

Using Your Pulse as a Training Guide

Women			
Age	min	optimum	max
25	130	157	185
30	126	153	180
35	123	149	175
40	119	145	170
45	116	140	165
50	112	136	160
55	109	132	155
60*	105	128	150
65	102	123	145
MEN			
25	137	166	195
30	133	162	190
35	130	157	185
40*	126	153	180
45	123	149	175
50	119	145	170
-55	116	140	165
60	112	136	160
65	109	132	155

Gabe Mirkin, M.D.



## ***Swiss Peak to Grow to Lure Climbers***

*From Reuters*

ZURICH, Switzerland—Local officials plan to add a few feet to a Swiss mountain spurned by climbers because it is not high enough, the *Sonntagszeitung* newspaper reported.

"This is not a joke at all, we are absolutely serious about this," village council president German Anthamatten told the paper.

At 3,998 meters ( 13,119 feet), the Fletschhorn just fails to make the exclusive club of a string of higher peaks in the Valais region known as "4,000ers," such as the 4,478-meter (14,691-foot) Matterhorn.

"A surprising number of mountain climbers decide against attempting the Fletschhorn because it is just a few meters short of 4,000," Anthamatten told the newspaper.

He was quoted as saying his council aimed to rectify that with a \$72,000 plan to add some rocks to the top to take it up those few crucial meters.



From The China Lake Mountain Rescue  
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