

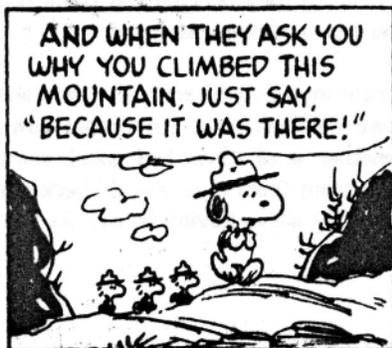
CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP  
P.O. BOX 2037  
RIDGECREST, CA 93555

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

AUGUST 13-14	Mt. Abbot	Renta
AUGUST 20-21	Mt. Whitney (East Face Routes)	Wisecarver
AUGUST 27-28	Mt. Goddard Moonlight Tryst	Rockwell
AUGUST 29	CLMRG Summer Party	Rockwells
SEPTEMBER 3-5	Tuolumne Meadows	Hinman
SEPTEMBER 6	Stretcher Class Begins	Training Committee
SEPTEMBER 10-11	Mt. Humphreys	Silverman
SEPTEMBER 12	Meeting	Mason
SEPTEMBER 17-18	The Matterhorn	Leiser
SEPTEMBER 19	Equipment Hut Night	Training Committee
SEPTEMBER 24-25	Mt. Mendel (North Couloir)	Ostermann
OCTOBER 1-2	Joshua Tree	Seibold
OCTOBER 3	Meeting	J. Westbrook
OCTOBER 8-10	Yosemite Valley	Mason

\*\*\*\*\*

PEANUTS By Schulz



## SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

**88-9**  
**Joshua Tree NM**

**6/12-13/88**

**Transit**  
**Mason**

My uneventful duty weekend was interrupted at 2150 Sunday with news of two overdue Marines on APIs in Joshua Tree National Monument. The two men had gone riding in the Pinto Basin area on Saturday the 11th. and did not return. On Sunday the Park Service was notified and a helo spotted their ATV's at 1400. JOSAR began working tracks found at the vehicle and decided to make a larger call out later that evening. We mobilized at 0030 Monday morning and began our transit. We monitored the BLM frequency (166.375) and it paid off: at 0230 we were turned around. The operation was over, with the two men finding a road and eventually a ranger.

Participants were: Mason, Hine, Finco, Rents, R. Walker, Derrickson, Silverman, Barbee, S. Walker, and Speck. J. Westbrook coordinated, with assistance from Green.

Comments:

1. Every member had plenty of time (about 2 hours) to get their gear together and be at the rescue hut. Yet some people were late, one by as much as 25 minutes.
2. Monitoring the BLM frequency worked well. We had been called off shortly after we left the hut, by telephone, but we didn't hear a radio message until arriving in Barstow. Does the BLM have repeaters between Ridgecrest and Barstow?

**88-10**  
**Homewood Canyon**

**6/15-16/88**

**Search**  
**Mason**

On Tuesday evening, 14 June, I received a call for a search in Inyo County. A man had been missing for a week from his home in Homewood Canyon, north of Trona. Sgt. Dan Lucas of the Inyo County Sheriffs Office asked that we meet him the following morning at 0700 at the Homewood Canyon Road. CLMRG mobilized at 0530 to begin what would be one of the most interesting and frustrating searches I have ever been on.

Kevin Tate 33, a twelve-year resident of the Old Ruth Mine, was last seen by his mother seven days earlier in Trona. Kevin had also been missed by John Daniels, his

neighbor and a long time caretaker of the Ruth Mine. John had become suspicious of Kevin's whereabouts when Kevin's four dogs, whom he loved more than anything else in the world, were left unattended and began begging for food at John's door.

Kevin had spent much of his twelve years exploring the local mines and natural springs around his home and probably knew the area better than anyone else. One of the most logical places to look for Kevin was in the Ruth Mine, which was just a hundred yards from Kevin's door and where we set up base camp. Kevin had rappelled into the mine several times before and had spent much of his time in an area he called the glory hole.

The Sheriff called upon the Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue Team (IWVSAR), which specializes in mine SAR, to investigate the mine. CLMRG's job was to make a ground search of the local springs and mountains. We had no idea what Kevin might have been wearing or what he might have with him or even if he was in the area. It was believed that Kevin was wearing a new pair of Nike running shoes similar to an old pair found in his home. With this little information to go on, teams were sent into the field in hopes of finding some clues.

Stogsdill and Silverman would hike up Crow Canyon to cut for tracks. Rents and Schafhauser would do the same up to Benko Springs, and Mitchell and Wilson would search the canyon above base camp. One of IWVSAR's members would act as relay while the rest of his team searched some smaller nearby mines until more of them arrived to rappel into the loose and dangerous Ruth Mine. Several tracks were found but with no definite track description to go on, nothing was certain. Even when tracks were found they were nearly impossible to follow because of the heavy burro traffic in the area and the strong winds that had apparently blown for several days before. It was now nearly noon; no solid clues of Kevin had been found. Renta's team was diverted to Ruby Springs when it was learned that Kevin had spent some time in that area at an old shed known as the Russian Cabin. Unfortunately, when they arrived the cabin had been destroyed and no sign of Kevin was found.

Meanwhile, a team from Inyo County arrived. Hine and Seibold were sent two canyons south to rappel down Great Falls Basin, another area Kevin had spent some time in. Doug Wilson's team from Inyo would check out several high points directly above Kevin's home. As the

day progressed, nothing was discovered. The IWVSAR team arrived and attempted to rappel into the glory hole, only to discover that the shaft had been caved in and that apparently no one had been in the Old Ruth for quite some time.

At 1850 our first clue came in. Two young men walked into base with a blue shirt that they had found above Ruth Springs in a shallow horizontal shaft. The shirt was positively identified as Kevin's and was the shirt he was wearing when he was last seen by his mother seven days earlier. All the teams were sent to that location to check the shaft and the surrounding area. The shaft was about 30 feet deep and ended in a wall of rock and loose dirt. When explored, a small day pack and Buck knife were found; they were identified as Kevin's. There were no tracks in the shaft and it was thought that maybe Kevin used it as a stash for some of his gear. A loose grid search of the immediate area around the shaft was performed to look for tracks, but no signs were found. Teams were called back to base to debrief and to formulate a plan for the following day.

Three decisions were made. One was to have IWVSAR excavate the shaft in the hope of finding further clues. The second was to do another search of the surrounding area near the shaft. And the third was to call in a helo to drop some teams on Argus Peak and other outreaching areas, just in case Kevin got outside our search area.

The following morning CLMRG, Inyo County and IWVSAR met at base camp at 0700 and began the assignments. At 1002 a helo from the Inyo Forest Service was used to emplace teams at Argus Peak, the top of Crow Canyon, and at Quail Springs; and to do aerial search of the area. IWVSAR began digging out the shaft where the shirt was found. The digging was slow and extremely dangerous with constant cave-ins. They decided it was too dangerous to continue without shoring. At that point they discovered a comb and a flashlight that still worked.

To continue digging, IWVSAR would need help. Dr. Carl Austin, a local geologist, was called upon for his expert opinion on the stability of the shaft. Montrose SAR of Los Angeles County was also called in as a backup team for IWW and was enroute by helo. It was decided that the quickest and safest way to excavate the shaft was to use a backhoe tractor and simply tear the side of the mountain out. CLMRG had finished its assignment with no sign of Kevin and had returned to base.

There was simply nowhere else to look. Kevin was either in the shaft or entirely out of the area. We wrapped up the ground search that evening at 1718 and

headed for home. IWVSAR and Montrose SAR remained on the scene and began what would be an around-the clock job of excavating the shaft.

On Saturday morning, the 18th, Kevin's body was found at the back of the shaft. It appeared that the shaft had collapsed on him.

Other CLMRG members on the search were: Derrickson, Roseman and S. Walker. Coordinator Wyatt was assisted by J. Westbrook and C. Braun. Ham operators were R. and B. Meng and Brubaker.

Comments:

1. It was later learned that one of the searchers from CLMRG had actually seen Kevin's shirt in the entrance of the shaft while searching, but mistook it for a rag. Although checking the shaft for Kevin, the shirt was left behind. This was a major clue in locating Kevin. Although it would not have made a difference in his survival, we may have found him a day sooner. A painful reminder that no matter how small the clue, it can always be important.

2. Kevin's new Nike running shoe turned out to be a Vibram hiking boot. No matter how sure someone is of a shoe type, always be aware of other tracks in the area.

3. Somehow we left the base radio behind the first day out. If this operation would not have been close to Ridgecrest this could have been a big problem. Luckily the PT-400 worked well with our omnidirectional antenna. Also, we used our Ham radio operators on the second day for communications with Ridgecrest. Remember they are always available.

<b>88-11</b>	<b>6/29-30/88</b>	<b>Transit</b>
<b>Santa Rosa Mountains</b>		<b>Finco</b>

While debriefing at Graziano's Pizza after our Wednesday evening summer mountaineering class, the pager went off. Al Green had received a call at 2145 from Dick Sale who was coordinating an MRA call out for a search in Riverside County. I contacted Dick at 2230.

The search was for a sixteen-year-old male lost in the Santa Rosa Mountains. China Lake was requested to be at base camp at the Pinyon Pines Fire Station at 0700 Thursday, 30 June.

We mobilized at the hut at 0300 and departed at 0330. At 0500 we stopped in Adelanto to check on the status

of the search and were told that the youth had been found. We were back in Ridgecrest by 0630.

Members participating: Huey. Mitchell. Harris. Leiser. Wilson and Speck. Coordinator Wyatt was assisted by B. Meng and VanVerst.

<b>88-12</b> <b>Yosemite</b>	<b>7/7-10/88</b>	<b>Search</b> <b>Green</b>
---------------------------------	------------------	-------------------------------

We were placed on alert at 1050 on Thursday, 7 July. Arnold Gaffrey from Sierra Madre SRT had been contacted by Yosemite and was asked to supply ten MRA searchers. CLMRG members Green, Hine, Finco, Leiser, Mitchell, Silverman and Schafhauser committed. Within an hour we were told to plan to help with the search the next morning.

Timothy Barnes had not returned from a day hike on Tuesday, 5 July, and was reported missing at 0915 Wednesday. He had told his friends that he was going to Polly Dome Lakes. We were given assignments in the vicinity of Polly Dome for the next three days. Our efforts were fruitless. When we finally were released Sunday afternoon there had been no trace of Timothy found by any of the searchers.

The Park Service put a tremendous effort into this operation. There were 84 searchers on Thursday and over 150 on Saturday. Several helicopters were used for placing teams, searching and even infrared surveillance. The minimal Involvement of MRA apparently resulted from a decision to use resources closer to Yosemite National Park.

Comment:

Bring all your technical gear when you go to Yosemite. John Dill says: "Climbers are craftsmen; they should bring their own equipment".

<b>88-13</b> <b>South Lake</b>	<b>7/7/88</b>	<b>Alert</b> <b>Atkins</b>
-----------------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------

Thursday evening shortly before 2200 Mike Mason responded to the pager call from Charlie Shore of the Inyo Posse. CLMRG's assistance was needed, and Mike relayed the information to me. I called Charlie at the Lone Pine substation. I informed him that we were already on alert to send additional personnel to Tuolumne Meadows (see 88-12. above).

They needed help in a search for an overdue hiker, Robert Bacon. Bacon had planned a 5 day trip from Onion Valley to South Lake via the John Muir Trail. He had left word with his mother that he planned to exit at South Lake on 4 July. His mother called the sheriffs office when he failed to check in on the 6th. After talking with Charlie, I discussed the search with Lee Lucas. We concluded that Robert had most likely bitten off more than he could do in his estimated time and would probably be walking out soon.

I called Charlie back. He was planning to send a team south over Bishop Pass and wanted us to start a team over Kearsarge Pass. I told him we thought that that was the right thing to do, but we should hold off until Friday afternoon. Charlie had already contacted the Park Service to alert them to look for Bacon. I told Charlie I would call him Friday afternoon. When I called at 1530, Kathy Bahn at the Bishop substation informed me that Robert had been found on the west side of Bishop pass moving slowly with sore feet and ankles, and he was being walked out without incident.

Responding: Atkins. with assists from Mason and Lucas.

<b>88-14</b> <b>Whitney Trail</b>	<b>7/8/88</b>	<b>Rescue</b> <b>Atkins</b>
--------------------------------------	---------------	--------------------------------

At 1930 Friday the pager went off. It was the Inyo County Sheriffs Office requesting CLMRG. I got on the phone immediately. Dispatcher Nancy Fox was requesting that we evacuate a female with a compound fracture of the leg from the Whitney Trail about 10 minutes below Lone Pine Lake. The Inyo Posse wasn't available because of their operation which had concluded earlier in the afternoon. I said that we would get things rolling as soon as possible. Carol Burge began the call out. We wanted a 2000 departure at the latest.

I gobbled Bev's gourmet chicken, left our guest at the table, and headed for the hut at 1915. As I was getting gear ready, Carol called and reported a response from 6 people, the bare minimum. Mike Wisecarver and Dennis Burge left at 1950 with the fixation kit. I called the substation in Lone Pine and requested that the Inyo team assist in a carry out, and reported that our advance team was on the way with first aid gear.

The remainder of our team left the hut at 2005. We arrived at Whitney Portal at 2200 after stopping twice to fill up the tire on the litter wheel. As we were preparing to leave the Portal, Dennis and Mike called in

to say that they had reached the injured party, Sue Yaya of Newport Beach. They reported that Joe Jackson, who said he had been associated with the San Diego MRT, had come upon Sue shortly after the accident. Sue had been descending by the Trail from an attempt at a day climb of Mt. Whitney, when she slipped in some loose sand and fell, breaking her fibula and tibia and severely dislocating the ankle in the process. Fortunately, the break was not compound! Joe had splinted the ankle in place, placed her on his Ensolite pad, covered her up and in general did a first rate job of stabilizing Sue's condition. Dennis and Mike examined Sue, checked her vitals, and beefed up the splint to prepare her for transport.

Deputy Oyster informed us that the Inyo team could not give us assistance. Adams, Harris, Castro and I loaded up with the litter and light bivvy gear and headed up the trail, arriving at the scene at 2250. Sue was in a great deal of pain. She had taken water and aspirin earlier. I gave her a superstrength Tylenol tablet (500 mg) and some water. We had her in the litter and ready for the carry out at 2330. There were only six of us assisted by Sue's hiking companion, Judy. Judy played an important role in talking to Sue and encouraging her to concentrate on banishing the pain. No matter how careful we were, riding in the litter on the wheel is not a three coupon ride. After two hours of very hard work, we had Sue at the Portal at 0135. The ambulance was waiting for us. Sue was on her way to Southern Inyo Hospital ten minutes later; she was soon transferred from there to Bishop.

With breakfast at 0200 in Lone Pine, we headed home. After stowing the gear in the hut, the operation was secured at 0430.

Comment:

The operation went very well. We had the bare minimum of people required. We were extremely lucky she was no further up the mountain. We didn't bring the victim pack. It would have been helpful to have the sleeping bag. As it was, we made her comfortable **with** assorted parkas and wind gear. We were lucky it was a very warm night.

88-15 Yosemite NP	7/11-13/88	Search Huey
----------------------	------------	----------------

On 10 July we were contacted by Yosemite National Park through the Kern County Sheriff's Office regarding a search for a 74-year-old woman who had been separated from her hiking party earlier in the day. We were not put on actual alert. However, at 0900 on the 11th

we were asked to provide four trackers for this search. En route to Yosemite we learned that she had been found, but were asked to participate in the continuing search for Tim Barnes who had been missing since the week before. (see 88-12)

That evening we were assigned a search area out of Tuolumne Meadows that required tracking and possibly some technical climbing (low 5th class) in the Cathedral Creek drainage. Our assignment was to accomplish a grid search to insure that no tracks or sign had been missed by earlier hasty search teams in the area.

Midway down the drainage we split into two teams with team #1 searching over Falls Ridge (the one possible 5th class area). Both teams were to meet at the Tuolumne River.

Team #2 was led by a Yosemite SAR member. They were not able to finish their assignment down the drainage due to a series of waterfalls with polished rock which was 5th class plus. They then ascended Falls Ridge, but without technical gear, they could not escape and spent the night on the ridge. They were lifted out the morning of the 13th.

Team #1 found a route over the ridge, but in the process of climbing over a boulder area to avoid brush; one member dislodged a rock and injured his hand. (The injury required 11 stitches 12 hours later. That sounds bad, but there was no pain and no damage to tendons or nerves!)

We found no evidence that Barnes had been through our assigned area.

Field members were: Huey, Derrickson, Castro, Barbee and Cunningham. Coordinator was Mary Wyatt.

Comment:

OES had asked for trackers. Actually, they needed a team that could track, had climbing skills, and could stay in the field for up to 3 days and 2 nights. We always commit for this duration on operations, but it rarely lasts this long. However, it did for us. Be prepared!

88-16 Echo Lake	7/25-26/88	Search & Rescue Lucas
--------------------	------------	--------------------------

A quiet weekend ended abruptly when our pagers squawked at 2105 Monday, 25 July. Sgt. Dan Lucas, Inyo County Sheriffs Office, had a search for us. A party of six backpackers had been camping at Hungry

Packer Lake and had gone fishing at Echo Lake. One of them, Milt Peters, had wandered off about noon and had not returned to camp by dark. Since Milt was deaf, Sgt. Lucas wanted us to start a search the next morning. Sheila Rockwell and Carol Burge called the roster; ten of us could go.

We met at the hut at 0500 and drove to Lake Sabrina. Deputy Keith Hardcastle met us. A CHP helicopter piloted by Mike Brown with Kelly Hyde was ready to search. While the helo scanned the lakes above, we set up base camp and interviewed Jim Wilson and Holly Rigney, who had walked out the previous evening to report Milt's disappearance. The remaining three members of the party had stayed at Hungry Packer Lake in case Milt came back in the night.

Milt was last seen on the east side of Echo Lake heading up to a ridge for a view. He was wearing only a T-shirt and jeans and carried no food or water. Later, when the others were searching for Milt, they heard what sounded like cries for help on the west side of Echo Lake, near a waterfall and cascade that tumbles three hundred feet into the lake.

Based on the information at hand, we decided to send one team to Hungry Packer Lake (to talk with the other three people and to see if Milt had returned) and to send two teams to Echo Lake. However, before the helo returned from their overflight, the other three hiked into search base. Milt had not come back by 0630 when they left Hungry Packer Lake.

The first team of Rockwell and DeRuiter flew in to Echo Lake at 0945. As the helo circled after dropping them off, the pilot followed the motions of a fisherman below to discover someone stuck (but apparently unhurt) on vertical cliffs near the waterfall west of Echo Lake. The search was over. The rescue began.

The helo flew in team 2 (Mason, Cunningham) and team 3 (Hine, Mitchell) to Echo Lake, carrying more ropes and hardware. With team 4 on deck, the helo returned to Bishop for fuel.

At 1227 we got a situation report from Echo Lake. Team 1 had reached Milt. He was in good shape, but definitely stuck. With a "bombproof" upper belay, the plan was to assist him up 25 feet of difficult class 5 terrain (hard climbing) and then across 200 feet of class 4 ledges (easier, but rope still required) to the waterfall. Another 40-foot steep section of class 5, and finally the party would be able to hike down to the helo landing zone. Estimated time to pick up was two hours.

No more people or equipment were required. (Bad news for Stogsdill, Finco and Schafhauser, who continued to work at base camp. But good news for me. It was great to have such good help in base.)

The rescue proceeded exactly as planned. Milt was flown down to search base at 1440 and all teams were out by 1540. The last team to fly enjoyed thunder and lightning as the daily afternoon storm gathered in earnest. Back at base, Milt told us his story.

He had climbed the ridge east of the lake to see the view. On his way down he decided to traverse around the upper end of the lake (passing under Echo col) and over to the waterfall. The others were fishing below and did not notice Milt make his way around behind them. Milt reached the waterfall, crossed it, and continued traversing down, trying to reach easier terrain. But it got steeper and steeper, until finally he decided to stop behind a rock flake. Milt saw the others searching for him but couldn't get their attention. (He would have given a lot for a whistle.) Three times Milt thought of diving into the lake 75 feet below, but didn't because there was no one around to see him. Night came and Milt stood in the 12 inch by three foot crevice behind his flake. Attempting to keep warm, he stuck his arms inside his T-shirt and put his bandana over his chest. He said that it was cold, but very beautiful.

Comments:

1. Excellent rapport with the CHP helo personnel made short work of this operation. Milt was found and rescued in the time it would have taken teams to hike to Echo Lake if the helo had not been available.
2. We learned again that searches can get very technical. We had assumed at the outset that "minimum technical gear" would be required, and this means a few slings and carabiners as prescribed on the equipment list. As it turned out, this complement was barely enough to carry out the rescue, but tells everyone to bring at least the items on the list. IT DOES NOT MEAN "WE GUARANTEE THAT YOU WONT NEED MORE THAN THIS". We did have a couple of racks at the site which could easily have been quite necessary. Also, some members didn't take their helmets. Rockfall could have dented a few skulls.
3. Confusion at the hut caused us to drive off without a base radio. Luckily, the PT-400 with our directional antenna was sufficient. I should have made sure that all items on the equipment list had actually been loaded in the cars.

At 1900 on 28 July, Arnold Gaffrey of Sierra Madre alerted CLMRG for a possible rescue of a Boy Scout with a broken leg in Baja California, Mexico. The boy, a Mexican National, was injured in an apparent attempt to climb Picacho del Diablo, the highest peak in Baja. He was at the 6000 foot level in the bottom of the very steep-sided and rugged Diablo Canyon, northwest of the peak.

The call for assistance had apparently originated with a fireman in El Centro who called De Anza SAR. They in turn called San Diego MRT to initiate a call out of the Search and Rescue of the Californias (SAROC), a loosely organized collection of select teams within CRMRA whose purpose is to perform SAR in Baja. SDMRT passed on the request to Sierra Madre who contacted

CLMRG and Riverside MRU. Meanwhile, John Wehbring of SDMRT attempted to contact the Mexican and American authorities to offer our assistance.

That night the Mexicans attempted a helicopter evacuation, but were unable to complete the rescue. The next day two US Navy helos, assisted by a US Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft orbiting above, were able to evacuate the boy. Wehbring contributed his knowledge of the area by helping direct the aircraft via radio from a Coast Guard station in San Diego.

Our alert was terminated at 1300 on the 29th. The initial diagnosis for the boy was a possible broken hip.

A total of eleven field members (Hinman, B. Rockwell, Hine, Finco, Mitchell, Silverman, Ostermann, S. Walker, Wilson, Schafhauser and Seibold) responded. Wyatt and C. Burge coordinated. Telephoner was B. Meng.

\* \* \* \* \*

Desert peak climbers know that the south peak of the Spanish Needle group is called "Polly's Needle", named for Polly Connable. However, not many know that Polly was a member of CLMRG in the early 1960's. We recently received word that she passed away on 28 December 1987. The following letter appeared in the Southern Sierran:

## **Polly Connable Remembered By Reader In Bishop**

Old-timers will remember Polly Connable, who joined us on many Desert and Sierra Peak climbs in the 50's, 60's and 70's. She lived the last years of her life in Independence, where she could see Mt. Williamson from her front yard. She kept a close watch on the Department of Water and Power, as her greatest concern was the slow drying-up of the Owens Valley. She went to all the meetings that were open to the public where the pumping of ground water was discussed. Polly fought hard to keep our valley in the best possible shape.

On December 28 Polly Connable passed away in the Big Pine Convalescent Hospital at the age of 78.

She had suffered during the last years of her life from different ailments. After limping around for a year or so, she underwent hip surgery and went on a llama backpack trip as soon as the doctors allowed her. When her other hip started to bother her, she had this taken care of, and a few weeks later she dem-

onstrated to us how well she could walk again.

In 1987 she had to undergo another operation. Lion and although the operation was successful, the doctors discovered a malignancy of the liver. She was taken to the Bay area, where she underwent painful chemotherapy treatments that are successful in 30%/0 of the cases.

She looked radiant when she visited us in the summer. On the 4th of July Polly rode in the Independence Parade as Grand Marshall with her dog Tequilla next to her. Unfortunately the cancer had spread to other parts of her body. She bravely faced the inevitable, always welcoming her many friends who visited her with a smile. We said goodbye on the 27th, the day before she died.

Rest in peace dear Polly!

Bep Bingham  
Bishop

PS. Bud reminds me that Polly was one of the charter members when the Desert Peaks Section was started.

The Daily Independent

## A special thanks

To the Editor:

On behalf of the family, I would like to express my thanks to the Inyo County Search Team, the Indian Wells Mine Rescue Team, and the China Lake Mountain Rescue Team, for the efforts in the search for my brother, Kevin Tate.

My special thanks goes to Kerr-McGee for their quick response when their help was requested. Thanks to their men and equipment, my brother's body was recovered from the cave-in.

This has been a trying time, but was made easier by the men who participated in the search. They were very caring and concerned, and quite upset by the outcome.

Again, I would like to express the family's thanks.

Janice Schmid  
Trona

(See operation 88-10)

### SAR in other states:

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is empowered to conduct search and rescue operations in Maine. All Maine telephone books carry the 8(X) number of the nearest Warden District.

The text of the relevant sections of Maine law is given below. For more information write to the Commissioner, Department of Human Services, 221 State St., Augusta, ME (4331

*Title 12, Sec 7035, No. 1: Powers*

**Search and rescue.** Whenever the commissioner receives notification that any person has gone into the woodlands or onto the inland waters of the State on a hunting, fishing or other trip and has become lost, stranded or drowned, the commissioner shall exercise the authority to take reasonable steps to ensure the safe and timely recovery of that person; except in cases involving downed or lost aircraft covered by Title 6, section 301.

A. The commissioner may summon any person in the State to assist in those search and rescue attempts. Each person summoned shall be paid at a rate set by the commission with the approval of the Governor and shall be provided with subsistence while engaged in these activities.

B. The expenses of the department in search and rescue efforts shall be paid from the General Fund.

C. The commissioner may enter into written agreements with other agencies or corporations, including commercial recreational areas, allowing partial search and rescue responsibility within specified areas.

D. The commissioner may terminate a search and rescue operation by members of his department when, in his opinion, all reasonable efforts have been exhausted.

Any person who has knowledge that another person is lost, stranded or drowned in the woodlands or inland waters of the State shall notify the Warden Service Division of **the Department** of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.



**Say, Hinman  
Are you sure you  
Locked the car?**

Reinhold Messner

**"Today's climber carries his courage in his rucksack . . . Faith in equipment has replaced faith in oneself "**

**- Reinhold Messner**

## RECENT TRAINING EVENTS

*Editors' note: A few people have suggested that we include a column on members' participation in our scheduled training events. Let us know what you think. Any suggestions for improvement?*

7-8 May: **Entire East Ridge of Owens Peak.** This 8-mile long, highly-serrated ridge rises from the LA aqueduct road with Five Fingers and Aquila Peak, traverses "our" rock climbing area, and ends at the summit of Owens. The idea was to stay on the ridge as much as humanly possible. Green, Hinman, B. Rockwell, Roseman, Castro, Ostermann and Speck climbed both days, while Renta, Rogers and Dianne Lucas bailed out at the halfway point. Lots of roped climbing on mostly good rock.

10 May: **Tracking Practice.** Getting in an hour of step-by-step practice during this monthly event were Huey, McDowell, Harris, R. Walker and Alan Bishop.

21-22 May: **East Ridge of Olancha Peak.** Starting near the mouth of Olancha Creek, in two days Hinman, B. Rockwell, Renta, Roseman, DeRuiter and R. Walker climbed this 6-mile long, sustained class 3++ ridge, which gains 7500 feet on its way to the Peak. In all probability, this route had not been done before. Descent was via the prominent and very rugged couloir southeast of the summit. Future parties beware of angry nettles and big black bears!

30 May: **Kern Slabs.** Hinman, Roseman and Dianne Lucas, using sticky rubber and chalk, did Buggin Around (5.8), Clouds (5.7), and Piece of Cake (5.9).

31 May: **Radio Hut Night.** Linda Finco conducted a radio familiarization and practice session at the rescue hut for Green, Stogsdill, Hine, Lucas, Mitchell, Martin, DeRuiter, Wilson and Speck.

3-5 June: **California Region MRA Seminar.** **Camp Sugarpine.** Participating were Green, B. Rockwell, Stogsdill, Finco, Lucas, Renta, Mitchell, J. Westbrook, Roseman, Speck and TerHeun. Presentations were given by several of the CLMRGers.

11 June: **Telescope Peak Trail.** The 5th annual fun run (7 miles. 3000 feet elevation gain) was attended by Renta, J. Westbrook, Mitchell, Harris, Martin, R. Walker and Seibold. Best up time was an excellent 1:19:27. (Congratulations, Mitch!)

18-19 June: **Dome Rock.** This area was inundated over the weekend, with Hinman, Castro, Schafhauser,

Silverman, DeRuiter, S. Walker, Rogers and Roseman making many multipitch ascents of class 5.4 to 5.9. How many climbers can dance on the top of a dome?

26 June: **Owens Ridge.** Green and Hine climbed Arriba (5.6) and The Rooftop (5.4).

2-4 July: **Mt. Guvot.** Stogsdill, Finco, Mitchell and Leiser bagged this seldom-visited peak, deep in the back country west of Mt. Langley.

7-12 July: **The 'Grand Traverse'.** The plan was to climb all the named and numbered summits (there are 28 of them) on the crest of the Sierra from Mt. Langley to Mt. Tyndall. Ground rules were to stay as high as possible, bivouacing and melting snow for water. B. Rockwell flamed out after 16 peaks and 3 days. Hinman, Ostermann and S. Walker got as far as Tunnabora (21 peaks, 4 days) before being stopped by an unexpected rock problem (kidney stone). Except for the hike in and out, the climbers were never below 12,700 feet.

9, 10 July: **Summer Class Day Trips.** Taking students on their one-day climbs were Stogsdill and Castro (Thor Pk.); Sakai, Derrickson, Barbee and Wilson (Mt. Langley); Adams, Wisecarver and Gleason (Candlelight Pk.); and Lucas and D. Bulge (Mt. Gould).

16-17 July: **Summer Class Overnight Climbs.** This year the trips went to Olancha Pk. (Sakai, Speck); Mt. Morrison (Hine, Mitchell, Wisecarver, Cunningham); University and Independence Peaks (Finco, Gleason, Castro, D. Burge, Seibold, S. Walker); and Split Mt. (Green, Martin, Harris).

23-24 July: **The Palisades.** Climbing The **Prow** 15.61 on Thunderbolt Peak were Hinman and Adams. Green and Dan Sherman got off route on Agassiz and, not having a rope, found the ascent "interesting". Finco, Mason, Roseman and Dianne Lucas went up the Swiss Arete (5.4) on Mt. Sill; due to a severe electrical storm they had to rappel off a few feet below the summit, but demanded credit for the peak anyway.

30 July: **Day Climbs of Mt. Whitney.** Stogsdill, Finco, Mitchell, D. Burge, Castro, Wilson and Alan Bishop climbed the Mountaineer's Route (times from Whitney Portal to the top were between 4:30 and 5:30). They were met on the summit by Hinman and B. Rockwell who had done the East Buttress route (6:20 from the Portal). All descended via the Trail and were back by 4 p.m. Piece of cake.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR !**

**THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE  
CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP  
WILL BE CELEBRATED ON**

**SATURDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 1988**

**-BANQUET-  
-PROGRAM-  
-GUEST SPEAKERS-**

**DETAILS FORTHCOMING**



From The China Lake  
Mountain Rescue Group  
P.O. Box 2037  
Ridgecrest, CA 93333