



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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 3-4	MRA Workshop	MRA Rep
March 10-11	Ski Trips	Renta
March 12	Meeting – Packing for Operations	D. Burge
March 17-18	Ski Trip	Hueber
March 24-25	Rock Skills Descending/Ascending	Hinman
March 26	ELT Hut Night	Mitchell
March 31-April 1	Saline Valley	Mitchell
April 4	First Aid Topic III (5 weeks)	Green
April 7-8	Joshua Tree	S. Walker
April 9	Meeting - Radios	M. Schmierer
April 10	Girl Scout Encampment	Mitchell
April 14-15	Telescope via Badwater	Hinman
April 21	Owens Ridge - Stretcher Practice	Green
April 28-29	Mt Goethe	S. Walker
May 4-6	Sheriff's Seminar	IWW/CLMRG
May 12-13	Domelands	Seibold

PEANUTS By Schulz



SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

89-19 9/17-18
Meysan Lake

Rescue
Finco

The Independence substation contacted the CLMRG at 1415 on Sunday, 17 September, saying they had an unconscious male in the vicinity of Little Meysan Lake at the 9600 foot level. The subject was having CPR administered to him at the time the reporting party (RP) left to get help. The Forest Service helicopter was going to fly at 1500 and try to evacuate the subject. The sheriff wanted to get ground teams into the field just in case it was too windy for the helicopter.

Sheila Rockwell agreed to be the coordinator. An advance team of Bob Huey, Andrew Mitchell and Chris Ostermann left the hut at 1500. Lee Lucas, Mike Rents, Ron Atkins, Dennis Burge, Ron Leiser, Steve Walker and Nancy Gray arrived later and helped gather the equipment. We left the hut at 1530.

Base camp was at the turnout on the Whitney Portal road which looks right up the Meysan Lake drainage. Deputy Leon Boyer met us there. He said that two Forest Service rangers were hiking up the trail to locate the subject, Steven Dale, and aid in any way possible. The advance team from CLMRG started up the trail at 1715 and, at 1830, arrived at Steve's location. They were followed shortly by Renta, Atkins, Burge and Walker. It appeared that Steve had died due to hypothermia shortly after the RP left. Huey and Mitchell spoke with Steve's climbing partner, Tim, to get more information on what happened.

Steve Dale and Tim McNaughton were climbing the ridge on Lone Pine Peak. At 1600 on Saturday, 16 September, a rain storm that had been building up engulfed them on the ridge. They climbed another hour in hopes of getting to the top. Near the summit they encountered a white-out. Since neither was familiar with the descent from the summit back to their camp at Little Meysan Lake they decided to rappel back down the route they had just ascended. Now the snow and wind combined chilled the two even more. Both were wearing jeans and cotton shirts, so their clothes quickly became soaked. All that evening they continued their descent, stopping every now and then in a temporary shelter created by rocks on the route. But, the inactivity made them both colder so Steve kept urging them on with the descent. Tim noticed that Steve was becoming lethargic and his speech was slurring, however Steve kept a positive attitude, saying things would get better when the sun came up the next morning.

During the descent, they got off route many times. By early the next morning they were within 100 feet of the bottom, but Steve was unable to move. Tim left him to go get help. Tim's cries for help were heard by some campers in the Meysan Lake drainage. Ben and Tom Young found Tim and got him into a sleeping bag in their camp. The two then went to look for Steve. They hiked up to the ridge and on the way back down spotted Steve, nearly two hours after they had found Tim. Steve was curled in a fetal position. He was cold to the touch, his eyes were glazed over, and his muscles were tight. They got him out of his wet clothes and into some dry clothes and a sleeping bag. Tim hiked up to where Steve was and got into the bag with him to try to warm him up. They got Steve to drink some warm liquids, but his condition was not improving. At 1200 Steve started gasping for air and lost consciousness. At this time they began CPR and Ben Young hiked out to get help. They continued CPR until 1300 and then stopped because Steve was not responding. Ben reported the incident to the caretaker in the Whitney Portal area. The Inyo County Sheriff was contacted and shortly thereafter, CLMRG.

Because darkness was closing in, the Forest Service helicopter crew decided to wait till the next morning to evacuate Steve's body. Bob Huey decided to keep all the CLMRG members in the field that night just in case the helicopter was not able to fly in the morning.

Base was back on the air at 0605 on Monday.

The people in the field were already hiking up to Steve's location with the stretcher for the evacuation. Huey called base at 0630 to say the body was ready to be evacuated. The helicopter left Independence at 0700, Monday, flew over the canyon to check the conditions, then went down to the Lone Pine campground to hook up the long line for the evacuation. At 0730, the evacuation was completed. Steve's and Tim's gear was packed up and carried down to the [railhead. All CLMRG people were back in base at 0930.

(Carol Burge and Carol Van Verst helped with the telephoning.)

89-20 9/24-25/89
Mount Whitney

Rescue
Green

A planned early bedtime was aborted by the beeper and the subsequent phone calls which reported someone screaming for help between Trail Camp and Trail Crest, on the much used Whitney trail.

The call came at 2130, and we had an advance team (Huey, Roseman & Buffum) on the road at 2215. The rest of us (Green, DeRuiter, Hueber & Brubaker) left about 20 minutes later. When the advance team arrived at Whitney Portals they were told that a second report had come in saying that the subjects were now at Trail Camp. This removed most of the urgency, but the advance team continued on with minimal gear to make sure that all was well. The backup team was not sent into the field. At 0500 the advance team informed base that there were no injuries and that they would escort Jeff Troy, Lori Troy (Laguna, CA) and Carol Scheier (Houston, TX) back to their basecamp at Outpost Camp.

The three had climbed to the summit (without ice axes) and were returning down the switchbacks when they decided to take a shortcut. This led them to terrain that had no steps in the snow and one of them fell, but managed to stop without injury. This caused a loss of composure and they started yelling for help. A person at Trail Camp heard their call and dutifully went out for help. We were called. Apparently, soon after the first person went for help another group of climbers who were descending provided the requisite assistance to extricate the three. They proceeded down to Trail Camp and were given shelter by other climbers.

Our rescuers were back at basecamp (Lone Pine Airport) by 0930. Coordinators were Carol Burge and Sheila Rockwell.

Comments: The radios did not work well. We had a lot of trouble getting information from the field team. One problem was that messages were too long and there was no wait for acknowledgement before continuing. If reception had been good this would work, but with poor reception, the messages must be short and repeated until there is confirmation.

89-21 9/30/89 Transit
Horseshoe Meadow Fincó

At 0900 I was awakened by a call from the Inyo County Sheriff concerning the need for a search in the Horseshoe Meadow area. A group of seventeen people from Mount San Antonio made camp across from the old pack station at 1630 on Friday, 29 September. At 1730, one of the group, Shahryar Borbor, left the camp for a short walk. When morning arrived, Shahryar had still not returned to camp. The leaders of the group were concerned because of his lack of experience camping, and the

minimal amount of gear he had taken.

Carol Burge coordinated the callout and Betty Meng helped telephone. I received permission from the sheriff to have an MRA callout for more people on Sunday, just in case the search continued through the weekend. At 1200, Andrew Mitchell, Tom Sakai, Dave Silverman, Larry Seibold, Frank Buffum and I arrived at the Lone Pine substation. There, we found out that Shahryar had walked back into camp late that morning. It appeared he had gotten lost when it got dark and decided to stay put for the night. When the sun came up the next morning he found his way back to the campsite. We arrived back in Ridgecrest at 1400.

89-22 10/6/89 Recovery
Mt. Whitney Lucas

On Friday (10/6) a party of three (Steve Nootenboom, Louis Morris, and Bruce ??) climbed the East Face route on Mt. Whitney, encountering snow and glare ice on the route, and were descending the Mountaineers Route when tragedy struck. They were about half way down the class 2 chute, which was filled with new snow, when Louis, who was in the lead stepped on an icy patch, lost his footing and fell. He tumbled about 600 feet down the snow and another 200 feet down the rocks, coming to rest at the mouth of the chute, several hundred feet above East Face Lake. The time was about 3 pm. Louis had severe head injuries and probable internal injuries. He was unconscious and breathing irregularly. Steve hiked out for help, while Bruce stayed with Louis.

CLMRG was called by the Inyo County Sheriff dispatcher at 7:15pm. Sheila Rockwell coordinated a callout, assisted by Betty Meng. Most of the team members were on their way to Yosemite for our annual climb-fest, so the turnout was light. An hour or so later five of us (Bob Adams, Chris Ostermann, Dave Silverman, Ellen Schafhauser, and me) were driving north. In the meantime, I had asked Sheila to alert Sierra Madre Search and Rescue.

We arrived at Lone Pine Airport about 10:30pm where the Inyo Sheriff's posse had set up base camp, with Deputy Gieger in charge. Steve Nootenboom was there and drew an accurate map of the area above East Face Lake, showing us exactly where to find Louis. An advance team of Chris and Dave left for the north fork trailhead to hike as quickly as possible up to East Face Lake,

members were Bart, Hine, Al Green, Larry Seibold, Steve Walker, and Nancy Gray. Janet Westbrook was the coordinator.

**89-27 10/28 Alert
San Diego Hine**

For the second time in thirty-six hours, I accepted an operation while wiping shampoo out of my eyes. The subject was an 81 year old male, hunting in the Lake Henshaw area near San Diego. He had failed to rejoin his partner at an agreed place and time. The MRA call out was requesting responding teams be at base camp by 0800 Sunday.

Carol Burge got four members to commit on her first cycle thru the roster. Before the second cycle could be started, we received word that the subject had been located. Other CLMRG members responding were Dan Harris, Phil Wilson, Werner Hueber, and Nancy Gray.

**89-28 12/9 Alert
Searles Valley Finco**

At 2000 on Saturday, 9 December, the Searles Valley Fire and Rescue Team requested CLMRG's help with a rescue at the Gold Bottom Mine. I informed the dispatcher that I thought Indian Wells Valley Mine Search and Rescue would be a more qualified team to help and that I would contact them. I called Henry Hurd, captain of the IWV team and Henry said he would follow through on it. Afterwards, I found out that IWV and been turned around at the turnoff to the Gold Bottom Mine and told that the operation had been secured. Just as the Searles Valley Team had gotten some good anchors placed and were about to descend into the vertical shaft where the subject was supposed to be, the man who reported the accident told the sheriff that there really wasn't a person down there, but that his dog had fallen down the shaft. Since they had no visual or "voice" contact with the dog, the Searles Valley Team decided to secure the operation.

**90-1 1 /21 Mobilization
Red Rock Canyon Green**

At 1315 Sunday afternoon the Kern County dispatcher called and asked for our assistance in rescuing a person stranded on a cliff in Red Rock Canyon. A man was reported to be 50 feet up on the rock. The personnel there were unable to reach him. A callout was started immediately by Sheila

Rockwell and Betty Meng. We met at the rescue but and by 1345 an advance team of three rescuers was on the way. However, before

they got out of sight we called them back. A call to report our response to the dispatcher gave us the all-clear. They had managed to save the stranded explorer without our help.

The following persons responded to this mobilization: Al Green, Bob Rockwell, Chris Ostermann, Dave Silverman, Phil Wilson and Larry Seibold. Ron Atkins committed for a follow-up team.

1989 ANNUAL REPORTS

**Qualifications Committee
Summary of 1989 Operations**

Total Operations - 28 Requesting Agencies

Rescues	7	California State OES	1
Recoveries	3	Inyo County	13
Searches	7	Tulare County	1
Alerts	7	Riverside County	2
Transits	2	Mono County	2
Incidents	2	San Bernardino Co.	2
		San Diego Co.	1
Operations by Month		Tuolumne County	1
		Yosemite NP	1
January	1	Death Valley Mmt	1
February	0	Joshua Tree Mrnt	1
March	4	Mexico(Baja CA)	1
April	0		
May	2	Total of 30 Victims	
June	4	O.K.	19
July	4	Injured	6
August	1	Dead	4
September	5	Not found	1
October	6	Total person hours	2,470
November	0	NW excused hours	696
December	1	Total vehicle miles	11,342

Average # of members per operation: 7.8

Equipment Committee

**Mike Renta
1 989 Expenditures**

6	Climbing ropes	\$539.32
2	Stretcher ropes	\$205.04
3	Ortovox Avalanche	\$445.00
	Transceivers	
1	Hut Telephone	\$109.09
2	Mag Mount Antennas	\$106.00

2	VOXs for ICOM Radios	\$106.00
6	T-Straps for ICOM Radios	\$31.80
10	NiCad Batteries	\$47.70
1	5-Man Stevenson Tent	\$773.00
1	Projector Bulb	\$30.50
1	Coleman Lantern	\$42.24
12	Stacking Chairs	\$192.00
4	Folding Chairs	\$64.00
	AA Batteries	\$128.10
	Miscellaneous Hut Supplies	\$462.26
	Tent Repairs	\$10.00
	Radio/Pager Repairs	\$194.50
TOTAL		\$3486.55

First Aid Committee
Andrew Mitchell

Classes	Attendees
Advanced First Aid	23
CPR	21

Purchases

- 2 Resusci Annie Torsos
- 1 Resusci Baby
- 1 Resusci Junior

Completed the new oxygen carry system.

Training Committee
Tom Roseman

During 1989 a total of 26 training events were conducted. Approximately 170 members spent over 400 hours training. These numbers do not include scheduled trips, First Aid, summer class, or tests and training of other MRA teams.

Highlights:

- A return to an old format of holding classroom type training before meetings.
- A stretcher practice at Great Falls Basin.
- A 2-day tracking seminar. Rappelling demonstration for the NWC Youth Summer Program.

Public Education Committee

Mary Schmierer

CLMRG participated in the following activities during 1989:

15 "Hug a Tree" presentations

One talk on how to prevent getting lost to the IWV Gem and Mineral Society.

An interview about CLMRG on KZIQ's "Spectrum" program.

Survival and mountain travel lectures to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the local junior high and elementary schools, the local Sierra Club, NWC pilots and Marine pilots.

Demonstrations and teaching to the Girl Scout Mojave Primitive Encampment.

Outdoor skills lecture to Maturango Museum Summer Class.

Rappelling Demonstration for the NWC Youth Summer Program.

Presentation to the IWV Volunteer Services Committee.

The CLMRG Summer Mountaineering Class.

Summary:

15 "Hug a Trees" to 2444 kids.
Outdoor skills to 40 kids
Mountain safety to ~400 adults
Demonstrations to ~100 adults
Mountaineering class to 50 adults
Approximately 3000 people reached by CLMRG public education programs!

From the Editor -

Sorry it has been such a long time since you've seen a Talus Pile. Learning a new computer and word processor took much longer than I anticipated. Thanks to all of you who have sent in cartoons and items of interest, and especially to you operation leaders who have been so prompt with the operation reports. - Carol Burge

1990 CLMRG Officers & Committee Chairs

President	Daryl Hinman
Vice-President	Tom Roseman
MRA Representative	Chris Ostermann
Secretary	Dennis Burge
Treasurer	Ron Leiser
Qualifications	Bob Rockwell
Training	Linda Finco
First Aid	Andrew Mitchell
Public Education	Bob Huey
Equipment	Mike Renta
Quartermaster	Mike Wisecarver
Maps	Dennis Burge
Communication	Phelps TerHeun
Kern Sheriff	Bart Hine
Training Manual	Mike Mason
Summer Class	Tom Roseman
Head Rock Instructor Mt. Heller	Al Green Ron Atkins

Donors

CLMRG wishes to extend our warm appreciation to the following friends who have recently given the group donations:

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Adamsen
Sam Van Gundy
Mr. and Mrs. John Wick
Mr. and Mrs. T.M. Stirling
Mountaineering Section of the Angeles
Chapter of the Sierra Club
Katy Film Productions Inc.

Gifts in memory of Mike Mason from:

Edna and Martin Seaholm
Geraldine Chambers
Victoria Brown
Wilfred and Mary Jane Clark
Deborah and Carey Schwartz
Mary L. Stassart

Michael Charles Mason March 26, 1959 - February 13, 1990

Mike Mason joined CLMRG at the age of 15, having become interested in mountaineering and technical rock climbing through the scouting program. He was a trainee at 15, moved up to support at 16, to rescue and field team leader at age 19, and operations leader at the age of 22. During his 16 years with CLMRG, he was active in many committees. A significant contribution in the administrative area was Mike's compilation and update of the CLMRG Training Manual, completed in this month after three years of effort. He was the vice-president of the group from 1988 thru 1989. He was one of the group's most capable technical climbers. His field experience and participation included 91 operations; 16 as a field team leader and 11 as the operations leader. He participated in at least 11 operations (five as operations leader and two as field team leader) after diagnosis of his illness.

Mike died of cancer at the Ridgecrest Community Hospital on February 13. He was 30 years old. Besides his technical contributions, we will miss his wonderful warmth and humorous zest for life. During his long illness, Mike and his wife Sally have been an inspiration to all who know them in their determination to live a normal happy life and refusal to be dominated by Mike's illness.

A more adequate recognition of Mike's commitment and contribution to Mountain Rescue will be published in a future issue.



'And now, standing at my side, I give you the man who conquered Everest, the Matterhorn, Kilimanjaro...'



From The China Lake Mountain Rescue Group
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