



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

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

<b>April 23-25</b>	<b>Joshua Tree</b>	<b>Benoit</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>West Valley Search Test</b>	<b>Wisecarver</b>
<b>April 30-May 2</b>	<b>Mt Williamson</b>	<b>Sakai</b>
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Owens Ridge</b>	<b>A. Mitchell</b>
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Owens Ridge</b>	<b>Benoit</b>
<b>May 10</b>	<b>Meeting/Helo Safety: Rockwell/Roseman/Mengs P. Matheson</b>	
<b>May 11-13</b>	<b>CPR Class</b>	<b>Mitchell</b>
<b>May 18</b>	<b>CRMRA Meeting (Inyo)</b>	<b>Wisecarver</b>
<b>May 15/16</b>	<b>Olancha SE Couloir</b>	<b>Roseman</b>
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Stretcher Hut Night</b>	<b>Training Com.</b>
<b>May 22</b>	<b>Stretcher Practice</b>	<b>Wilson</b>
<b>May 25</b>	<b>Standard First Aid Class</b>	<b>A. Mitchell</b>
<b>May 29-31</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>June 4-6</b>	<b>Tahquitz</b>	<b>Hueber</b>
<b>June 8/9</b>	<b>Summer Class</b>	<b>Ostermann</b>
<b>June 15/16</b>	<b>Summer Class</b>	<b>Ostermann</b>
<b>June 18-20</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>June 22/23</b>	<b>Summer Class</b>	<b>Ostermann</b>
<b>June 26</b>	<b>Summer Class Day Hikes</b>	
<b>June 27</b>	<b>Summer Class Day Hikes</b>	

## Operation Reports

### **92-16    10/20-23    Standby Parkfield                      Finco**

I received a call at 0930 on 20 October from reserve sheriff Sgt. Brad Wilburt. He stated that West Kern County was on a stage 2 alert for a predicted earthquake in the Parkfield area. The Office of Emergency Services in California issued the alert based on information from the United States Geological survey monitoring the Parkfield area. Kern County was putting all of its resources on standby for a 72 hour period.

It was decided to call the whole roster to see who would be available the next 72 hours. It was requested that those who committed and who had four-wheel drive vehicles, move their vehicles outside of structures. Also each team member needed to be fully self- sufficient for three days (including water). All leaders committing were requested to pick up a radio at the rescue hut, so that we could start immediate communications if an earthquake shook the area. I contacted John Paull from Indian Wells Valley SAR and began coordination with their team.

Twenty-two members committed to the standby. Everything stayed quiet for the next three days. Thursday evening at 1930 CLMRG received a pager call to inform us that Sgt. Garry Davis had taken the team off standby.

Committing were: Green, Finco, A. Mitchell, Stogsdill, Sakai, Renta, D. Lucas, B. Rockwell, Antonsen, F. Buffum, Hueber, D. Burge, Wisecarver, Wilson, S. Pappas, Castro, Myers, Dow, Atkins, C. Jain, Breitenstein, B. Martin. Coordinators: C. Burge, B. Meng. Telephoner: C. Pappas.

Comments: This standby was a lot different than our normal standby. CLMRG has a committee that is working on a disaster preparedness plan. A plan would have helped all members prepare to the same level of readiness. The committee will try to get a draft of the plan put together by the end of the year.

### **92-17            12/30            Alert Chimney Peak Road            Finco**

Rich Larch (Ridgecrest resident) contacted Frank Buffum (CLMRG) at 0900 on Wednesday, 30 December. Rich's two sons, Doug (20) and David (17), and daughter, Traccee (18), and a friend, Adam Ralph (20), were overdue from a trip to the snow.

The four left at approximately noon on Tuesday to drive to the snow. They told their parents they would be back in time for dinner. They were driving a Toyota Celica. Snow began falling in the upper elevations of the local mountains starting around 1000. When they had not returned by 2300, the parents tried to drive into the mountains to see if the car had broken down or gotten stuck. However, because of the recent snowfall, all the roads were inaccessible or closed.

After the Lake Isabella sheriff found that the family cabin in the Greenhorns had not been visited recently, Rich had called Frank Buffum who told him to contact our local sheriff. Sgt. Davis was arranging for the Sheriff's helicopter to fly over the area when Rick informed me by phone that his son had just called and that he was heading out the door to go get the group

The four had gone to Walker Pass, but when they did not find snow they continued on up the Chimney Peak road toward Kennedy Meadows. They drove up the road approximately 11 miles. The car could not get enough traction to continue and slid off the road. They got the car back on the road, but they could not continue either up or down because of the snow. Nearby was a cabin. The cabin was open so the four went inside, started a fire spent the night. In the morning the two older youths hiked down the road to the Onyx store and called home. It took two, four-wheel-drive vehicles to pull the Celica out of the snow.

### **93-1    1/7-8            Search Mt. San Jacinto            Stogsdill**

Phil Lester of Sierra Madre Mountain Rescue Team called our pager at 1945 on 7 January regarding

a downed aircraft on Mt. San Jacinto. The Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit had phoned the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) requesting that additional mountain rescue teams be sent to assist them and we could expect a call from OES at any time. I called Mary Schmierer to start a callout, a standby at the time, for as many members as possible who could prepare themselves for a winter blizzard search - freezing, blowing snow and rain, with snow four feet deep, was reported in the search area. I told Sgt. Garry Davis of the Kern County Sheriff's Office to expect a call from OES. Phil Lester called me back at 2112 to tell me that OES had given Sierra Madre the "GO" and they would be on their way with 12 members. Sgt. Davis called me at 2125 with the word that "in OES's judgment that Sierra Madre would be sufficient support for Riverside and that they could respond faster than China Lake", and told us to stand down. Mary passed this word along to the committed members at 2128. At 2130, Kevin Walker of Riverside called wanting to know the estimated time of arrival of China Lake and how many could respond. When I told Kevin that OES had turned us off, he asked me to stay on the phone while a Riverside Sheriff called OES to specifically ask that CLMRG get turned on again. OES concurred and Mary called all the committed members again and told them to be ready to depart from the hut at 2300. Sgt. Davis called at 2150 with the OES operation number and to wish us luck. Eleven CLMRG members left for Mt. San Jacinto's lower tram station at 2330 and arrived there at 0255 on 8 Jan.

Upon arrival, we were given a situation brief by Walt Walker of Riverside MRU, acting Incident Commander. The pilot of the downed aircraft had been in voice contact with commercial aircraft in the LAX flight path and had relayed his last LORAN position and the altitude at which he had crashed. The subject had been identified as Ltcol. Herman Daniel Ross of the U.S. Air Force. He had been in transit from Yuma, AZ to Palmdale, CA, in his privately owned Cessna 172 Skyhawk, when he was caught in an enormous down-draft that took his aircraft down. With no way to escape a crash, he was able to pick the best emergency landing site available and get his airspeed down to around 45 mph before impacting into the mountain near the 9,200 foot elevation. The approximate time of the crash was 1650 on Thursday. Ltcol. Ross has over 5,000 hours as pilot-in-command, and had flown this route before in his private aircraft.

Three China Lake teams were deployed into the search area at 0545 in blowing snow with 20 deg F. temperature and winds gusting to around 50 mph with almost zero visibility. Teams from Sierra Madre and Riverside that had been in the field since Thursday evening started picking up signals from the downed aircraft's emergency location transmitter (ELT) with their ELPER direction finding (DF) units around 0745. Prior longitude and latitude locations based on one Search and Rescue Satellite hit and the subject's estimated LORAN position had been plotted by base operations and it was found that the plotted positions disagreed with one another by almost a mile. By 0800, the Sierra Madre team thought that they were close to the aircraft's ELT and relayed their position from a hand held Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. However, they could not sight the downed aircraft. Visual sighting was complicated by near white-out conditions and that the aircraft was mostly white and buried in the snow. One Riverside team was in voice contact with Ltcol. Ross at this time with a handheld radio that was tuned to 121.5 MHz. They also had an ELPER and were getting a fairly strong DF signal. Unfortunately in the low visibility conditions, DF vectors were useless to base operations plotters as the Riverside team could not tell their own position. The DF signals were reflecting all over and the one team that had a GPS unit to pinpoint their own position could not locate the aircraft. A Landell helicopter was brought in around 0900 with a DF unit aboard, but could not get above 7,000 feet because of clouds and high winds. At approximately 1130 a slight weather window opened long enough to allow a Marine H-212 helicopter from El Toro to get airborne and be vectored to the crash area, where they established voice communication with the downed pilot. The subject was able to direct the helicopter to a position above him by the rotor sound. He was visually spotted at 1215 by the H-212's crew. While field teams were enroute to the crash site, the H-212's crew rappelled to Ltcol. Ross, put a neck brace on, and hoisted him aboard the helicopter. All teams were advised to return to base to secure the operation. Since the China Lake teams were closest to the crash site, they were asked to recover the rappel ropes and hardware left by the helicopter crew. The subject was flown to Palm Springs Desert Hospital where his injuries were

shown to be limited to one fractured vertebrae and bruises. In subsequent debriefs, the subject described the survival tactics he used to keep himself warm and dry during the storm until his recovery. He actually got about six hours of sleep during the night which was more than any searcher got. The China Lake teams arrived back in Ridgecrest at 2000 on 8 January.

CLMRG members participating in the operation were: Tom Stogsdill (Operation Leader), Daryl Hinman, Bart Hine, Linda Finco, Steve Walker, Robby Dow, Jerry Kong, Mike Myers, Chris Jain, Mark Buffum and Arun Jain. Mary Schmierer was coordinator with Betty Meng assisting.

**93-2 3/6 Incident  
Lake Sabrina Huey**

During the CMRA Winter Workshop, 5-7 May, a member of the San Diego Mountain Rescue Team sustained a knee injury and was evacuated by CLMRG and other CMRA members. Irene was participating in a mock operation south of Lake Sabrina. A mock victim was being evacuated from the Blue Lake area by lowering him in a litter. Four hundred feet from the lake, Irene was navigating a steep slope in deep snow, and fell. She wrenched or dislocated her knee. CLMRG members and others near her, including a medical doctor from the Riverside Team, assisted the new subject. Irene was lowered two pitches in the litter to Lake Sabrina and evacuated across the frozen lake by snowmobile in the care of the MD. CLMRG members participating included Bob Huey, Werner Hueber, Ellen Schafhauser, Jerry Kong, Chris Jain, Arun Jain, and Debbie Breitenstein.

<b>DONORS</b>
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*The CLMRG appreciates the support we receive from the many friends of the group. We especially thank the following friends for their recent contributions:*

**Elizabeth P. Winger**  
*In memory of Stan Dalbec*

**Frederic Bode**

**John and Ruth Gerhart**

**James and Kathryn Wilson**

**Lcdr. Edward and Florence Albright**

**Traute Peterson**

**John 011ey**

**Lois Adamsen**  
*In memory of Carl Heller*

**John and Marilyn Wick**

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*"It's no use, Irwin. Everything reminds me of food."*

**1992 ANNUAL REPORTS**

Summary of Operations

Al Green

CLMRG Data

Total 21 Victims CK	1 5	Total Person Hours	1,817
Injured	4	NAWS Excused Hours	540
Not Found	0	Total Vehicle Miles	6,881
Dead	2	Ave # Members per Op.	10.3

<b>Operation</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Requesting</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Rescues	2	January	0	Inyo County 7
Recoveries	0	February	1	Kern County 4
Searches	6	March	1	Mono County 1
Alerts	5	April	0	Death Valley Natl. Mon. 1
Transits	3	May	3	NAWS/China Lake 1
Incidents	1	June	5	Oregon OES 1
Mobilizations	0	July	3	Alpine County 1
		August	1	
		September	1	
		October	1	
		November	0	
		December	1	



*"Why? Because it's there! That's why!"*



**First Aid Committee  
Dianne Lucas Rindt**

1. Courses taught by CLMRG instructors. The CLMRG First Aid Committee schedules first aid and CPR courses throughout the year to maintain CLMRG members' first aid proficiency. These courses are taught by CLMRG members certified as instructors by the American Red Cross. The Advanced First Aid courses are taught with special emphasis on wilderness and mountaineering situations. The table below summarizes CLMRG courses taught during 1992.

**FIRST AID COURSES TAUGHT**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Instructors</b>	<b># Certified</b>
Mar 25, Apr 1,8,22,29	Advanced Topic 1	Green Westbrook	20
May 5-7	Professional CPR	Renta	6
May 19	Standard, w/o CPR	Mitchell	3
Sept 16-17	Professional CPR	Mitchell Buffum Wilson	10
Oct 6,13,20, 27, Nov 3	Advanced, Topic 2	Green Westbrook	16
Dec 7-9	Professional CPR	Wilson Buffum Ostermann	7
Dec 6	Standard	Mitchell	4
Dec 28-30	Professional CPR	Green Buffum	6

2. CLMRG currently has 42 active field team members (Technical, Rescue, Support and Trainee roster categories). The list below summarizes their current level of certification in first aid and CPR.

**First Aid / EMT**

ARC Standard First Aid	9
ARC Standard First Aid + partial Advanced	12
ARC Advanced FA and EC	17
EMT 1A	4
NASAR Wilderness EMT	1

**CPR**

ARC Community/Adult CPR	9
ARC Professional CPR	33



**"The good news is that life is but a game—the bad news is that batteries aren't included."**

**Public Education  
Chris Ostermann**

Date	Event	Activity
1/29/92	Lone Pine Rotary Club	CLMRG Operations
2/15/92	Sierra Peaks Section of Sierra Club	Rock Skills
2/20/92	Murray Jr. High School	First Aid
4/13/92	Girl Scout Indian Encampment	Rope Skills
5/7/92	Murray Jr. High School	First Aid
5/11/92	Monroe Jr. High School	First Aid
6-7/92	CLMRG Summer Class	Mountaineering
6/6/92	Maturango Museum	Mountain Safety
8/6/92	BSA Explorers	Mountain Safety
10/92	Hug-a-Tree	Wilderness Safety
10/29/92	Murray Jr. High School	First Aid
12/8/92	Hug-a-Tree	Wilderness Safety
12/11/92	Monroe Jr. High School	Mountain Rescue

**Equipment Committee  
Dennis Burge**

Much of what the committee did last year can be related to a recap of the money we spent. \$648 went for technical equipment, the major cost being the 3 ropes that we replace each year. Also, two Moss 3-man tents were obtained for about \$400 each. We bought 5 new ICOM radios for \$3388, and spent \$404 for radio batteries. The Training Wall Committee is a separate committee, but their expenditures are part of the equipment budget and were \$671.

A significant event which the committee got quite involved in was the breaking of a water pipe under our hut. This led to the water being shut off for weeks while the Public Works Department tore up walls and floor, found the leak, and finally replaced most of the water pipes and restored the torn up places. We are indebted to them for this; we would have had a major problem if it had not been fixed and we had to move.

I would like particularly to thank Steve Pappas for a great job as Quartermaster. Tom Stogsdill put in much time on various projects. Linda Finco took care of the radios, and Mike Renta and Tom Roseman helped on several things.

**Training Committee  
Frank Buffum**

The primary objective of the Training Committee is to look at what training members need to be prepared for operations throughout the year and get related training events on the schedule. A secondary objective is to insure that sufficient activities are scheduled to maintain and promote the development of individual member's personal mountaineering and rescue skills.

Areas focused on in 1992 were: technical rescue, search and tracking, maps and routes, familiarity with group equipment, helicopters, organization and leadership, winter operations, first aid and CPR.

Monthly pre-meeting talks were given on: ELT, search cases, tracking slides, radios, ready packs, stoves, survival, leader training and the ICS system, tents, snow shelters, and avalanche beacons. Noon



time tracking events were held each month throughout the year except during the summer class period.

Additional activities included:

First quarter - special classes or lectures (avalanches, policies and procedures, stoves, map and compass), joint winter training session on Mt San Jacinto, stretcher hut night, search practice, regional search practice in Saline Valley.

Second quarter - field tracking problem, ice axe practice, tracking seminar, rock skills instruction, radio hut night stretcher hut night, local disaster drill participation, evening tracking practice.

Third quarter - crevasse rescue practice, dynamic belay practice, initial work in building of a training climbing wall, a mini- stretcher hut night, helicopter operations

Fourth quarter - Yosemite climbing, stretcher hut night, stretcher practice, ELT talk and field operation, night tracking practice.

<b>1993 Officers and Committee Chairs</b>
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President	Linda Finco
Vice-President	Andrew Mitchell
Secretary	Kit Antonsen
Treasurer	Phil Wilson
MRA Representative	Mike Wisecarver

Equipment Committee	Mike Renta
First AID Committee	Dianne Rindt
Training Committee	Frank Buffum
Public Education	Chris Ostermann
Talus Pile Committee	Carol Burge
Sheriffs Committee	Andrew Mitchell

Special Committees	
ASTM	Tom Stogsdill
Training Wall	Ron Leiser
Summer Class	Mike Renta

Qualification Committee	Al Green Daryl Hinman Bob Rockwell
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## Lost and Found

Found on B Mountain: a fancy digital watch. It must belong to a CLMRGer because it has several members' telephone numbers stored therein, plus the number for the rescue hut and our pager. Also a few others including "Mom & Dad". Rightful owner can contact Bob Rockwell. He would keep it himself but he can't figure out how to program it.

## Scree

Wondering what to do with the plastic peanuts that padded those gifts you received this Christmas? They can now be recycled. The Plastic Loose Fill Producers Council has set up more than 2,500 collection centers across the country as part of a nationwide recycling effort. Packing peanuts are not biodegradable. They will still be around in 500 years if they end up in the landfill. So don't throw the pellets out with your trash.

Call 1-800-828-2212 to find a collection center near you or save them and reuse later when packing gifts.

The Talus Pile is edited by Carol Burge



**"You meathead! Now watch! The rabbit goes through the hole, around the tree five or six times."**