

**CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP**  
**P. O. BOX 2037**  
**RIDGECREST CA 93556**

**FEBRUARY 2004 NUMBER 130**

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**TRAINING SCHEDULE**

Feb 9 Mon Meeting (snow shelters) Sakai, Huey, DeRuiter  
Feb 13-16 Fri-Mon OPEN  
Feb 21-22 Sat-Sun Winter mountaineering skills TC  
Feb 27-29 Fri-Mon Aggie Bishop  
Mar 6-7 Sat-Sun MRA search re-certification MRA/TC  
Mar 8 Mon Meeting Hueber, Toler, C. Burge  
Mar 12-14 Fri-Sun Julius Caesar Myers  
Mar 20 Sat Piute Monument DeRuiter  
Mar 26-28 Fri-Sun Tyndall Myers  
Apr 3-4 Sat-Sun Panamint Butte Rockwell  
Apr 8-12 Thu-Mon Grand Canyon Huey  
Apr 12 Mon Meeting (ELT/PLB) Myers, Doerr, Franklin  
Apr 14 Wed ELT practice TC  
Apr 17-18 Sat-Sun OPEN  
Apr 23-25 Fri-Sun Jepson Rockwell

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**OPERATION REPORTS**

**2004-01 2 January 2004 Search Mt. Baldy** Tom Sakai and Linda Finco

Background:

CLMRG received a page from Cdr. Lacertoso Friday morning, 2 January. Bud Gates heard the page and called Linda Finco to see if someone was going to respond. Bud caught Linda just as she was going out the door to take a spa to Lancaster for repairs. Since it appeared no other operations leader was responding to the page, Linda contacted the commander. The request was to assist San Bernardino County in a search for an injured lost hiker in the San Antonio Mountain area (Mt. Baldy). The search would be around the 9600-foot level with snow and ice. San Bernardino

County specifically requested CLMRG along with other MRA teams to assist in this search. We needed to call the command post for additional information and then call back the commander with the information and the number of people we could send. The call to the command post gained the information that we would be looking for a 53-year-old male, Chung Hun "Charles" Koh, who was possibly injured in a witnessed fall and who was now lost. On Thursday, 1 January, Mr. Koh, his wife, and another couple hiked to the Sierra Club hut via the Hut Trail. The two women stayed at the hut while the two men continued to the summit. The men had packs, parkas, wind or rain pants, instep crampons (4-point), and ski poles. About 300 feet below a trail marker sign, the men stashed their packs and continued to the summit. On the way down about 10 feet past the Manker Flats Trail sign, Mr. Koh slipped and fell off the trail to the west into Good Canyon. This occurred around 1430. Mr. Koh's hiking companion called to Mr. Koh for about 15 minutes but got no response, and he could not see Mr. Koh. The companion continued back to the hut, where the group used a cell phone to call for help at 1600. A helicopter was dispatched before dark to do a quick search, but nothing was found. Teams arrived to the location later that night and found Mr. Koh's pack, the fall line, his ski poles and gloves, and the possible impact point (there was a small amount of blood). It appeared that Mr. Koh tried to hike back up towards the trail, but his tracks were lost in the brush. No other clues had been found to Mr. Koh's location.

The command post and base camp would be located at Mt. Baldy Fire Station. And, of course, they wanted us to arrive as soon as possible.

Carol Burge was the coordinator, and the situation was explained. If no other operations leader could be found, but we were able to assemble a team, Linda could be the operations leader when she returned to town around 1400. Meanwhile, Carol would try to locate another operations leader who could take the team ASAP. Tom Sakai agreed to be the leader, but requested Linda take over the operation later on Friday, which she agreed to do. Other CLMRG members committing to the operation were Curtis Davis, Bud Gates, Dan Bishop, and Dave Miles.

**Sakai:**

Carol Burge called about 0820 looking for an operations leader. I agreed to take the operation on Friday, and Linda Finco would take over Friday night. Six members initially committed, but one had to withdraw at the last minute. We met at the hut at 1030 and were on the road by 1050. We were to report to the command post at the Mt. Baldy Fire Station. We arrived there at 1350.

After a short briefing, we were given our assignment and transported by van to our starting point. One team of two (Davis and Miles) was to search up Good Canyon to the trail leading to the summit, from approximately 5,600 feet to 8,800 feet. The second team (Sakai, Gates, Bishop) was to search the ridge just east of Good Canyon and between it and upper San Antonio Canyon. They also were to search uphill to the trail leading to the summit. We were deployed at 1500. It was raining steadily at the

time and snowing at the upper elevations of our search area.

The approach to Good Canyon from the road involves dropping into San Antonio Canyon and following it downhill for a quarter-mile before turning right into the mouth of Good Canyon. Both teams searched until 1720 with no positive result. The canyon team had reached 7,400 feet, and the ridge team had gotten to 6,800 feet. Both teams were thoroughly soaked from the constant drizzle, and both had significantly reduced visibility (15-20 feet with headlamps) because of darkness and fog. The teams decided that because the potential effectiveness of continuing the assignment was low, and the potential hazard to the searchers was significant, the assignments should be terminated and resumed later. Both teams turned around and returned to the drop-off point. The ridge team arrived at 1900, and the canyon team arrived at 1915. The teams were transported back to the command post, debriefed, and given dinner. Finco was at the fire station when we came back from our assignments. She took over as operation leader for CLMRG. Sakai and Davis returned to Ridgecrest that night arriving at 2310.

**Finco:**

I returned to Ridgecrest around 1400 as estimated, packed my gear, had a quick dinner, and got on the road at 1500. I arrived at base camp at 1800 and learned that our teams were still in the field but were hiking out. Friday had been a wet day (and a cold or freezing night) for all teams in the field. CLMRG teams arrived back in base camp around 1930. The team members had dinner, and then we reorganized for the next day. Tom and Curtis would return to Ridgecrest. Bud, Dan, Dave, and I were given rooms at the Buckhorn Motel. We hoped that gear could be dried out and people warmed up and that we would get a good night's sleep. The command post wanted teams to report at 0600 for breakfast and at 0630 for assignments. San Bernardino had asked us whether we would take the assignment to hike to the summit via the Devil's Backbone and then search towards Dawson Peak and West Baldy. This would be a long assignment and would require ice axes and crampons. So that night in the motel, we organized our gear for the assignment.

Saturday morning, we arrived at base at 0600. Another 80-plus persons from MRA, LA County, San Bernardino County, and CARDA (dog teams) were there. The weather would be clear for the day, but the previous day's storm had left treacherous ice at the higher elevations (both on the ground and on the trees in the form of large, ready-to-drop icicles). The briefing for the day occurred shortly after 0730. We were fielded around 0900, and after we were driven to the notch at the start of the Devil's Backbone, we got started on our assignment around 1000. A team from Marin County was assigned to hike the Backbone toward Mt. Harwood and then search the drainages around the mountain, so we hiked a portion of the Backbone with this team. The Backbone was slightly icy and exposed, especially to wind gusts, but the going was OK until we reached an icy gully that would need to be traversed. We attempted the traverse but decided that without ice screws to set up a belay and mid-point anchors,

the traverse, even with a rope, would be too dangerous. A slip would result in a fall that one would not be able to self-arrest in the ice, and the exposure was too great to risk (a fall line down a 50-degree ice and rock wall that would result in a few hundred feet of falling). Dan scoped out the ridge and decided that was doable. About that time, we received a call from the command post that stated they had inserted a team in the Dawson Peak area so that we would not need to do that part of our assignment. So I decided that Dan and Bud would continue up the ridge to Mt. Harwood and then traverse over to Mt. Baldy and complete the West Baldy assignment. Dave and I would search back towards the drop off point. About an hour below the summit, the ridge team asked about completing the assignment or turning around to get back down the ridge in daylight. (They did not want to descend the ridge in the dark). The command post told them to complete the assignment and a helicopter would pick them up from the summit. Another SAR team was dropped on the summit later in the day to search West Mt. Baldy, so basically, our team just needed to be picked up from the summit. All of us were back in base by 1600. During the day, the San Dimas team found some possible tracks for Mr. Koh on the ridge above Good Canyon, but no other clues were found.

Saturday night, all teams spending the night were housed in the Mt. Baldy Baptist church. The pastor, his wife, and the caretaker were very kind to all the searchers. For those wanting dinner, they prepared salad and salmon; brought out desserts, cheese, and crackers; and provided hot drinks, soda, and water. Then they set up their big screen, played the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and provided popcorn. It was a nice, relaxing evening. A few members took advantage of the huge fireplace and hung out wet clothing to dry in front of the fire. Dan and Dave were interested in going on an assignment that evening and were assigned to set up an attraction in Lytle Canyon. So they grabbed their sleeping bags, drove the Explorer to a point in Lytle Canyon, and used the searchlights all night as the attraction.

The next morning, we reported to base a little after 0600, had breakfast, and got the day's briefing a little after 0700. Again, the command post had 80-plus searchers for the day. Air support would again be used because the weather would be clear although windy at high elevations. We were requested to have two members be on a quick response team to assist anywhere in the search area with either the subject or injured SAR members. Bud and I took that assignment. Dan and Dave were grouped with other SAR teams to search the Bear Flat, Bear Creek area to the west of Good Canyon. Most of the day was slow for the quick response team, but we did gear up for an accident with RMRU members near Dawson Peak. Three members had slipped on Dawson Peak and reportedly fell about 500 meters. Two members received moderate injuries (possible broken bones). The third member was OK. As we sat with our gear ready to go, we were told to stand down because a helicopter would be able to go in and pick up the fallen members. We did, however, respond to the landing zone to assist with medical treatments. One member appeared to have a broken ankle or leg.

Another member had tenderness and pain in his right foot, left hand, and left elbow. He also had some bleeding around the nose and mouth. A San Bernardino County helicopter came to transport both injured members to the hospital.

Dan and Dave completed their assignment and were back in base around 1430. They had dinner and then left to go home around 1500. Bud and I were committed until at least 1700 or until all the teams were to a safe point in the field. Around 1530, we were asked to gear up again for a search for a missing West Valley member who was assigned to a dog team. During the search of their drainage, they separated. The dog team arrived in the Mt. Baldy village as planned but not the West Valley member, and he did not have a radio. Bud and I were inserted into the drainage at the power station below the place last seen with the assignment to hike up the drainage to the Mt. Baldy village just in case the missing member had stayed in the drainage and not dropped out in the village. About 20 minutes into our search, we were notified that the missing member had been found and picked up and was returning to base.

Shortly after 1700, all teams but one were back to base, and they were just a short distance from their pick up point, so CLMRG was released. Before we left, the family (mother, son, and daughter) came by one last time. All had been in and out of base on Sunday to thank searchers and just watch what was going on. All family members, especially the wife, were very grateful and thanked all the searchers.

The ground search was finished, and on Monday, only an air search would continue. Bud and I changed and got on the road around 1730. Traffic was light heading north so we got back to Ridgecrest around 1930. We called the coordinator, unpacked gear, and headed home.

#### **Update:**

Search efforts continued for Mr. Koh (primarily on the weekends), and on January 17, a West Valley team located Mr. Koh's body in an icy drainage below the Mt. Baldy Bowl around the 8200-foot level. It appears that Mr. Koh slipped and fell down this icy drainage and incurred fatal injuries. No further details are known.

#### **2004-02 13 January 2004 Search and Recovery Mt. Baldy Tom Roseman**

On Monday, 12 January, I received a call from Debbie Breitenstein on my cell phone while I was driving back from a rock climbing trip. Debbie was looking for an operation leader for a search on Mt. Baldy. She had received a call from Sgt. Diederich to assist in a search for a missing hiker, and Sgt. Shaffer of San Bernardino County wanted us on site early Tuesday morning. Janet Westbrook agreed to serve as coordinator, and I decided to have everyone meet at the donut shop at 0430 the next morning. I called Linda Finco to see if she would go to the hut and reprogram our radios to work on Mt. Baldy based on problems from the recent Mt. Baldy search. Linda complied, and having the radios fixed was a big help during the search. I went to the hut that evening and picked up gear and the Explorer so that no one would have to go on base the next morning.

That evening at the monthly Group meeting, we learned that the search was for Ali Aminian, 51, and a member of the California Mountaineering Club. Ali had climbed in the mountains with many of our members and was considered a strong mountaineer and friend. Nine members responded to go on the search: Mike Myers, Tom Sakai, Al Green, Bob Rockwell, Bud Gates, Dennis Burge, Mike Franklin, Dan Bishop, and I. Dennis called me the next morning and was ill, so he stayed home.

We arrived at the Mt. Baldy Fire Station Tuesday morning about 0700 and had a hot breakfast. The search was now looking for both Ali and Charles Koh, who was still missing from the previous search. We were split into two teams: one led by Mike Myers with Al Green and Dan Bishop to search up the Devil's Backbone Trail, the other led by me with Bob Rockwell, Mike Franklin, Bud Gates, and Tom Sakai to search from the summit in the southwest direction. The weather was sunny and not too cold, but the snow covering remained very icy. At the summit, a dog team requested a mountaineer to assist them due to icy conditions on the north side of the summit, so I sent Bob Rockwell with them. When they returned to the summit to search the south side, they asked to keep Bob in case they encountered more ice. We found nothing that day. We stayed at the Mt. Baldy Resort that night after dinner with instructions to be back at the fire station the next morning at 0600.

The next morning, during a conversation with a member of the West Valley team working on assignments for the day, I suggested a change of assignment for our team based on what I had observed in the field the prior day. I had noticed that the Bear Flats Trail curved out over steep ice slopes on the south side several times on the way to the summit. Our whole team was reassigned to that area for the day.

On the summit, I split the team: Mike Myers to lead Al, Bob, and Dan down to the bottom of the ice slopes and myself to lead Tom S., Bud, and Mike to work the chutes from the top. Tom S. and Bud dropped into the first major chute, and Mike and I dropped into the next chute. This chute was very steep and icy on one side and mostly clear on the other. We concentrated on the gully where the two sides came together. About two-thirds of the way down, we came to a small ridge. Mike went to the left, and I went to the right. After walking a few feet, Mike said that he thought he saw what looked like snowshoes under a tree. I confirmed, and we went down the left side to avoid the worst of the steep ice. Although crampon points would penetrate, the whole side of the chute was glare ice. We discovered the body of Ali under a small tree. Since other members of the team knew Ali, I called them on the radio before calling in to the Command Post. As our other teams were not far away, they were with us in about 15 minutes. Since Bob knew Ali better than anyone else, I asked him to confirm the identity of the victim. The Command Post instructed us not to touch or move Ali until further notified. We held a short memorial for Ali because we now knew for sure that we had lost a good friend and fellow mountaineer.

Soon, both the LA County Rescue 5 helicopter (a Sea Stallion) and the Channel 5 news helicopter arrived. Six members of our team climbed up the steep ice to be airlifted out; Bob and Al remained on site to assist in the recovery. The command post had requested that we leave only one person, but because that goes against our field operating procedures, I chose to leave two. The site was in LA County, so they had to wait for the LA coroner to arrive. After several hours, Rescue 5 was back on scene with a coroner and two LA sheriff paramedics. The paramedics lowered to the site and, with Al and Bob, moved Ali's body to a safe site to hoist into the helicopter along with the four of them.

A command decision was made to suspend searching for Charles Koh at that time. We left for home about 1600 and arrived around 1900 that evening. We decided to hold a stress debrief and a wake for Ali that Monday. The next day, Bob and Sheila Rockwell attended a service for Ali in Thousand Oaks and the interment in Camarillo. San Bernardino provided excellent meals and support throughout the search. I want to thank everyone involved in the search. It was difficult for me to be on a search for someone that I knew.

### **2004-03 (2004-OES-0040) 21-24 January 2004 Search Mt. San Gorgonio Tom Sakai**

At about 1645 on Tuesday, January 20, I responded to a call from Sgt. John Diederich, Kern County Sheriff's Office, who relayed a request for assistance by San Bernardino County SAR. They were searching for a 25-year-old male, Eugene Kumm, last seen at 0700 on Sunday, January 18 in the High Creek Camp area on the Vivian Creek Trail heading toward the summit of Mt. San Gorgonio. Carol Burge coordinated the call-out and got six members to commit: Al Green, Bud Gates, Eric Toler, Dennis Burge, David Miles, and Mike Renta. We met at 0430 the next day with winter gear so that we could attend the morning brief at 0800 in Forest Falls, which is 10 miles east-northeast of Redlands. The on-scene commander was Deputy Shannon Kovich of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office.

Kumm started his attempt on Mt. San Gorgonio on Saturday, January 17. He hiked to High Creek Camp on the Vivian Creek Trail, where he spent the night. He was reported to be in very good physical condition but not to have much experience in the mountains. He did, however, have new crampons and ice axe and claimed to know how to use them. On Sunday at 0700, he was seen heading for the summit with all his gear, including his overnight gear. He was due back by Sunday noon and was reported overdue by late Sunday afternoon.

On Tuesday, January 20, a significant storm on and around the mountain lasting all day hampered search efforts. The storm dropped 6-8 inches of new snow at higher elevations that covered the icy slopes and any tracks Kumm may have left. The clouds and wind lasted into Wednesday morning.

When we arrived at 0710 Wednesday in Forest Falls at 5,500 feet, road conditions

were icy causing major logistics problems, including access to the command post and helicopter support, which delayed onset of the search. A large open area about 2 miles down the hill was set up as a staging area so that rescue personnel wouldn't have to drive the icy roads. Team leaders were transported to the command post for team assignments and briefs. Because the originally scheduled helicopter, which was on site, was down, a second larger one was called in. It, however, would operate only out of the Redlands airport, which was approximately 12 miles from the staging area. This exacerbated the existing logistics problems.

The first half of the first team to be assigned was deployed at shortly after 1100. Because of some personal equipment problems, the second half of that team could not go into the field. I volunteered three of our team--Gates, Toler, and Miles--to take their place. They flew in next. The others in our contingent were fielded at 1250 for their assignment. Because the pilot was inexperienced with high altitude landings, the initial search plan of landing on the summit and searching downhill had to be altered to allow for lower altitude landing zones. The resulting assignments were in the northern and eastern sections of the mountain. Even though the first team was in the field until 2015, they found nothing significant. That team had an additional hour-and-a-half transport back to the staging area.

The following day, there was an 0700 brief. We were again divided into two teams. Both flew to near the summit starting at 0900 by the same helicopter as the day before but with a new pilot. The first team of Gates, Toler, and Miles also had a local SAR member, Dr. Jim Evans. They were to search down the San Bernardino Peak Divide Trail and come out on the Falls Creek Trail. They were again out well past dark. The second team was to search down the Vivian Creek Trail to the place last seen at High Creek Camp, then hike out an additional 4 miles to the trail head. The Vivian Creek Trail was Kumm's intended route to the summit. Again, none of the fielded teams found anything significant.

By Friday morning, searchers from Mono, Inyo, Marin, BAMRU, and many Southern California teams were on scene and ready to be fielded. Because so many searchers were available and half of the CLMRG contingent had put in two long days, we decided it was time to come home. We left the Forest Falls staging area after breakfast and arrived home at 1030.

Eugene Kumm's body was found at 1350 on Saturday, January 31 nearly two weeks after he had been last seen. He was found at 8,300 feet elevation about a mile west of High Creek Camp where he was last seen. He had apparently slid about 400 feet down an icy chute while on his way out and died from head and body trauma. He was wearing his crampons at the time and apparently using ski poles for the hike out.

*May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds.*

--Edward Abbey

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## **GROUP BUSINESS**

The members present at the 8 December 2003 meeting elected the following officers for 2004:

President Debbie Breitenstein

Vice President Paul DeRuiter

Secretary Elaine Riendeau

Treasurer Dave Doerr

MRA Representative Tom Sakai

The members present at the 12 January 2004 meeting elected the following to the Qualifications Committee for 2004: Tom Sakai (Chair and Operations), Linda Finco (Activities), and Tom Roseman (New Members and Rosters).

In 2003, we welcomed back Karen Botham, who with her Navy flyer husband had left us briefly for a tour in Virginia, and bid farewell to long-time member and leader Andrew Mitchell.

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## **2003 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Summer Class Committee-Mike Franklin**

We purchased the digital image projector and placed it in the hut. We made a new agenda for the summer class, one that more accurately matches the 7th edition of Freedom of the Hills.

We had 35 students in the summer class. Generally, 25 to 35 showed up for the lectures and field exercises. Twenty-five hard core students went on the day and overnight trips.

### **Public Education Committee-Terry Mitchell and Elaine Riendeau**

#### **Members**

Terry Mitchell (Chair), Elaine Riendeau, Carol Burge, Mary Schmierer, and Bob Rockwell

## **Activities**

Date Activity Participants Members

11 January Boy Scout troop at Fossil Falls 4 boys

3 adults Linda Finco

Bud Gates

Werner Hueber

Tom Roseman

Walter Runkle

15-16 March Presentation of dog show awards Debbie Breitenstein (2 hours)

Health Fair Bob Huey (8 hours)

Mike Franklin (8 hours)

16 April Mojave Primitive Encampment 65 girls

10 adults Linda Finco (5 hours)

Dennis Burge (5 hours)

Dave Miles (5 hours)

Bud Gates (5 hours)

Werner Hueber (5 hours)

Tom Sakai (5 hours)

June-August Mountaineering Safety Class

7 nights lecture

7 nights field class

Planning & preparation

Day trips

Overnight trips

25-35 students

25-35 students

25 students

25 students

10 (210 hours)

10 (280 hours)

7 (70 hours)

3 (36 hours)

3 (108 hours)

Totals 33 (704 hours)

## **Contributors**

January Aspen Rescue Group

January Edison International Employee

Contributions Campaign

February Janet E. Hammond To honor her son, Steve Lester

February Steven, Caroline, and Jon Walker  
February Arwen Lienau Family For Arwen Lienau  
(Amelia Marcelle and Angel Gomez)  
February Edison International Employee  
Contributions Campaign  
April Lyal D. Viers  
May CFC donors  
May Edward H. and Florence Albright  
July Microsoft Matching Gifts Program For Arwen Lienau  
September Nancy L. Moore via United Way  
September Mario and Yolanda Gonzalez  
October Robert M. Trousdale  
October Dr. and Mrs. Robert Dow In memory of Robbie Dow  
November United Way  
December William J. R. & Lois H. Adamsen In memory of Carl Heller

**Combined Federal Campaign donors**

William Deemer Naomi Norris Cary Fujiwara Renee Lesniak  
Belmont Frisbee Mary Smith Denise Ritchie Lloyd Crabtree

**Equipment Committee-** Al Green

**Members**

Al Green (Chair), Bob Rockwell, Dave Doerr, Linda Finco, David Miles, Tom Roseman, Werner Hueber, Phelps TerHeun, and Mike Renta.

**Major purchases**

Upgrading all gear in the hardware bags \$1474.74  
Ti Stretcher \$1761.00  
White gas stoves and cook sets \$259.70  
Tent poles and snow flukes \$216.43  
22 harnesses for summer class students \$407.42  
Radios, charger, and carrying case \$5948.62

**Hut events**

The roof was repaired and coated and now should be really waterproof. Water pipes were replaced to fix the low pressure problem. The tree was removed. Thanks to Mike Myers, we have received an agreement authorizing our use of the building for the next 5 years.

### **Of special note**

**In May of 2003, we received a brand new Ford Explorer from KCSO. It is completely equipped with radios and spotlights. Thank you Kern County.**

### **Financial**

The total money we spent in 2003 was \$10,659.33, which includes the major purchases listed above plus batteries, copier repair, and miscellaneous items. I have a spreadsheet listing all purchases.

### **General comments**

Phelps TerHeun is recycling our old radios--3 Midlands and 2 Icom-H6s--which we left out for him on 14 July. Dave Miles has measured the current hardware bags and designed and constructed new ones. Moe Stantial donated some rope and webbing to the group (via Walter Runkle). The rope is 600 feet of brand new, 11.6 mm, Blue Water static rope on a spool.

### **Stuff not done**

The accumulation of old historical papers in the Hut is still out of control. I know this sounds like a broken record, but Committee Chairpersons and Officers could spend a little time over there to make order out of chaos. I'm willing to help. Also, everything in the Hut needs to be inventoried.

### **First Aid Committee**

Gina Niesen

The First Aid Committee conducted the following training activities:

Activity Date

Community CPR January 22, November 25, and December 15

Community First Aid March 17

CLFAS Topic B February

CLFAS Topic A November

### **Emergency Services Committee**

Linda Finco

The year started slowly for the Emergency Services Committee. Kern County Office of Emergency Services commented that we needed to get more organizations involved in order to be able to provide adequate service during an emergency. We had regular attendance by the HAM radio people (RACES), the Humane Society, BLM, CLMRG, and a few other groups, but we needed better attendance by the Fire Department, the Sheriff's Office, NAWS China Lake, the utilities, and other organizations that would play a bigger role if a disaster hit the Ridgecrest area. So we decided that the Police

Department would take on the leadership role and send the invitations to the meetings and that we would work together on programs and training events to prepare for a disaster.

Dave Bruegel with Police and Citizens Together (PACT), a civilian volunteer group with the Ridgecrest Police Department, took over as coordinator for the meetings after our summer break. Attendance at the meetings has increased, but some important organizations are still missing. Dave is working to find training events and to prepare future scenarios that should make the EOC meetings more interesting to keep attendance growing and more effective in preparing the professionals and volunteers in Ridgecrest to work together to assist in an emergency.

## **DONATIONS**

Terry Mitchell

### **CLMRG gratefully acknowledges recent gifts from the following friends:**

Edward H. and Florence Albright Ridgecrest, California

Microsoft Matching Gifts Program Memory of Arwen Leineu

Nancy L. Moore via United Way Bakersfield, California

Mario and Yolanda Gonzalez Valley Village, California

Robert M. Trousdale

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Dow Chevy Chase, Maryland In memory of Robbie Dow  
United Way

William J. R. & Lois H. Adamsen North Salem, New York In memory of Carl Heller

Clifton Chandler Ridgecrest, California

John J. Olley Dunsmuir, California

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## **SUMMARY OF PAST TRIPS**

Date Location Participants Notes

Oct 24 Stemwinder Huey, Bishop, Hinman Beautiful; made it; didn't get lost

Oct 28 Fossil Falls Roseman, Green, Rockwell, Finco Powered hoist by Quoin.  
Played with it. Performed as expected. Gave them good feedback.

Oct 29 Lone Pine Peak Rockwell, Sakai, and 2 guests Sakai's asthma was getting bad because of smoke, so he turned around. Others made it to summit.

Nov 1-2 Lone Pine Peak & La Conte Bishop 3-6 inches of snow on trail. Got into waist deep snow. Reached 13,000 feet before turning around.

Nov 7-9 Broken Finger & Telescope Rockwell, Sakai, Gates Drove to Mahogany Flats. Hiked to Rogers Peak, Bennett, and then Telescope. Headlamps for about 5-10 minutes. Spitting snow by the time we got back to car.

Nov 14 Corkscrew Rockwell, Sakai, Huey

Nov 21-23 Mt. Charleston Huey, Bishop, guests: Bill Stratton, Jim Vijay Cold, 19 degrees on Saturday morning. Party of 4 had broken some trail before us. 9 hours before setting camp. 2 hours to summit next morning. Found remains of helicopter. Thor Rockwell, Sakai, Runkle, Roseman All made it except Sakai (asthma kicked in). Lots of people up there.

Whitney Trail Runkle, Rockwell 50th birthday summit.

Dec 13-14 Pyramid Peak Rockwell, Green, Sakai, and 4 guests

28 Dec Lone Pine Lake to Big Horn Park Rockwell, Green, Toler

Jan 1 Owens Peak Rockwell, Bishop, and guest and dog Day climb

Jan 10-11 Manly Peak Doerr, Green, Rockwell,

C. Burge, Myers, and guests Pete Watters and Cindy Myers Summit block in 3 hours. Rockwell climbed up and belayed others.

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## SCREE

Check our **web page at <http://www.clmrg.org>**.

All telephone numbers in *The Talus Pile* are area code 760 unless noted otherwise.

Treasurer Dave Doerr reports that newsletters from other rescue groups are in the Hut.

Bob Rockwell got an e-mail message from Doug Thompson, who runs Whitney Portal store. Next July 17 will mark 100 years of the Whitney Trail. Thompson would like CLMRG to present a program relating the history of activities in the area.