

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P. O. BOX 2037
RIDGECREST CA 93556

TRAINING SCHEDULE

T	20-21 Jun	Tue-Wed	Summer class	Summer Class Committee
	24-25 Jun	Sat-Sun	Norman Clyde	Huey
T	27-28 Jun	Tue-Wed	Summer class	Summer Class Committee
	30 Jun-2 Jul	Fri-Sun	Heller	Bishop
	8-9 Jul	Sat-Sun	Morgan, Stanford (from Hilton Creek)	Rockwell
T	10 Jul	Mon	Meeting	Finco, D. Burge, DeRuitter
T	11-12 Jul	Tue-Wed	Summer class	Summer Class Committee
T	14-16 Jul	Fri-Sun	Summer class day trips	Leaders
T	18-19 Jul	Tue-Wed	Summer class	Class Committee
	22-23 Jul	Sat-Sun	Open	
T	25-26 Jul	Tue-Wed	Summer class	Class Committee
T	28-30 Jul	Fri-Sun	Summer class overnight trips	Leaders
T	1 Aug	Tue-Wed	Summer class final exam	Class Committee
T	2 Aug	Wed	Summer class party	Class Committee
	5-6 Aug	Sat-Sun	Open	
	11-13 Aug	Fri-Sun	Open	
T	14 Aug	Mon	Summer party	Mitchell
	19-20 Aug	Sat-Sun	Whitney Trail	Toler
	TBD Aug	TBD	Rainier	Bishop
	25-27 Aug	Fri-Sun	Tahquitz	Roseman
	1-4 Sep	Fri-Mon	Tuolumne Meadows	Finco
	2-4 Sep	Sat-Mon	Tyndall, Russell	Huey
	8-11 Sep	Fri-Mon	Goddard	Rockwell
T	11 Sep	Mon	Meeting	Huey, Doerr, Myers
T	16-17 Sep	Sat-Sun	Tracking seminar	Training Committee
	22 Sep	Fri	Whitney day hike	Rockwell
	30 Sep-1 Oct	Sat-Sun	Open	
	6-9 Oct	Fri-Mon	Yosemite Valley	Finco
T	9 Oct	Mon	Meeting	Breitenstein, Roseman, C. Burge
T	14-15 Oct	Sat-Sun	Mini-stretcher practice	Training Committee
	20-22 Oct	Fri-Sun	Open	
	28-29 Oct	Sat-Sun	Open	

T designates official training activities.

*Strong winds continue
Even in the summer heat.
Global warming strikes?
--Nerol Ortsac*



CLMRG is funded in part by United Way of Indian Wells Valley.

OPERATION REPORTS

Operation 2006-03 (Transit)

Palm Springs Tramway

17 April 2006

By Tom Sakai, Operation Leader

At 1120 on Easter Sunday, 16 April, I got a call from Tom Roseman, who had responded to a call from Sgt. Mike Kirkland, Kern County Sheriff's Department, with a mutual aid request on a search for an overdue hiker. The request was from Riverside County for the search for Hans Ebbenscaard, a 38-year-old Danish male, who was apparently traveling alone. He had ridden the Palm Springs Tramway and had gotten a day hiking permit on Wednesday, 12 April. Authorities began searching Sunday after learning that Ebbenscaard's rental car had sat for several days in the tramway's parking lot.

Roseman searched for a coordinator while I called Sgt. Kirkland for more details. Carol Burge became the coordinator, and she and Janet Westbrook made the callout for volunteers. After getting only one other member, Debbie Breitenstein, to commit after two hours, I decided we could not field a team that day.

I had C. Burge make another callout to see who would be available on Monday or Tuesday. Four of us (Breitenstein, Mike Franklin, Bud Gates, and I) could go on Monday, 17 April, but not until 0900. After determining that Riverside still wanted our help, we left Ridgecrest at 0910 on Monday. We arrived at the Palm Springs Tramway at 1210, just as Ebbenscaard's rescue was starting.

Shortly before we arrived, Ebbenscaard had been spotted by a search helicopter at about the 6,000-foot level in Tahquitz Canyon. The pilot thought he could not do the necessary one-skid pickoff, so another helicopter came in to complete the rescue. In good condition considering his ordeal, Ebbenscaard was flown to a nearby hospital to be examined before being released.

The Riverside rescue team wanted us to check into base camp at the top of the tramway and have lunch with them, which we did. After a debrief, we returned home and put away all our gear by 1800.

SHERIFF'S APPRECIATION DINNER

By Linda Finco, President CLMRG

Group members Al Green, Linda Finco, Tom Roseman, Debbie Breitenstein, David Miles, Paul DeRuiter, Dan Bishop, and Mary Schmierer; Honorary Member Tom Stogsdill; and family and friends attended Sheriff Mack Wimbish's annual Search and Rescue (SAR) Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Hodel's Restaurant in Bakersfield on Friday, 24 March 2005.

I named Dan Bishop as our top contributor for 2005 for his work as the lead instructor for our Basic Mountaineering and Mountaineering Safety Course last summer and for his dedicated participation in the Group's SAR operations, training events, and mountaineering activities.

The following members earned awards for longevity of volunteer service:

Years	Member	Years	Member
5	Mike Franklin	20	Tom Roseman
5	Dave Miles	25	Mary Schmierer
10	Walter Runkle	25	Bob Huey
20	Paul DeRuiter	30	Mike Renta

GROUP BUSINESS

SAR Commander

From Sgt. Mike Kirkland
Kern County Sheriff's Department
Search & Rescue Coordinator

Effective Saturday, 17 June 2006, Cmdr. Moore will be transferred to a new assignment. Cmdr. Shelly Castaneda will be assigned to Volunteer Services Division.

Archives

Al Green is coordinating an effort to archive the Group's records—with emphasis on old issues of the Talus Pile. He has bought a 300 GB external hard drive for the Group's computer for storage. The following folders have partial information. Al welcomes suggestions and information from all current and former members and, of course, from our Honorary Members.

Operation Reports: 1999-2005
Talus Pile: 001 to 011 & 100 to 137
Minutes: 010108 (1/8/01) to 060508 (5/8/06) Secretary has minutes back to 1993.
Officers: Complete except have only who was President from 1958-1968.
Top Contributors: Complete.
Honorary Members: Complete.
Time in Group: Membership history
(When joined and when quit. Current to 2000. Needs updating.)
Accidents: Involving group members. (Need input from members for this.)
Things to consider:
 Committee history
 Policies (past and present)

2006 Officers

President	Linda Finco	375-7951	linda.finco@navy.mil
Vice-president	Bud Gates	793-4671	horace.gates@navy.mil
Secretary	Elaine Riendeau	939-6577	RiendeauEM@navair.navy.mil
Treasurer	Werner Hueber	375-2165	hueber3@mchsi.com
MRA Representative	Dave Miles	939-4260	MilesDL@navair.navy.mil

2006 Contacts

Qualifications	Tom Sakai	375-7404	tsakai@ridgenet.net
Qualifications	Tom Roseman	939-4812	thomas.roseman@navy.mil
Qualifications	Linda Finco	375-7951	linda.finco@navy.mil
Public Education	Carol Burge	446-7038	cburge@ridgenet.net
Training	Tom Roseman	939-4812	thomas.roseman@navy.mil
Summer Class	Dave Miles	939-4260	MilesDL@navair.navy.mil
Equipment	Mike Renta	446-4947	mikeandwinnie.renta@verizon.net
First Aid	Gina Najera-Niesen	371-7565	gina.niesen@svtnsg.com
Sheriff's Office	Linda Finco	375-7951	linda.finco@navy.mil
ASTM Representative	Dennis Burge	375-7967	dennis93555@yahoo.com
Emergency Services	Debbie Breitenstein	939-0716	deborah.breitenstein@navy.mil
Stores	Carol Burge	446-7038	cburge@ridgenet.net
<i>The Talus Pile</i>	Loren Castro	375-3279	lfc32@earthlink.net

SUMMARY OF PAST TRIPS

2006	Location	Participants	Notes
Jan 1	Backus Peak	Rockwell, Sakai, Brown, and one guest	
Jan 8	Whitney Trail	Rockwell, Brown, and two guests	We hiked up the trail as far as the North Fork stream crossing. We had to park down at the first big switchback and needed snowshoes from there. Three feet of snow at Portal.
Jan 8	Great Falls Basin	Hinman, Hueber	Climbing
Feb 4	Old Baldy	Rockwell, Huey, guests Tom Sexton, David Gillanders	We went up the ski hut trail from Manker Flat and down the Devil's Backbone.
Feb 10-12	Onion Valley	Bishop, Huey	Snowshoes on at trailhead
Feb 12	Alice	Rockwell, Sakai, guest Chuck Faris	From the South Fork of BP Creek. Faris's feet were getting cold (summer boots), and I (Rockwell) was tired, so I turned back with him. Sakai went on to the summit. Nice 1600' glissade on the descent.
Feb 20-24	Pear Lake Hut	Roseman, Breitenstein, and lots of guests	Incredibly nice weather. Two wolverine hunters dropped in and stayed with us. Good trip. Seven feet of fresh powder.
Feb 20	Peak 5405	Rockwell, Sakai, guest: Chuck Faris	One mile west of Corkscrew. Climbed the peak then traversed over Corkscrew down to the car. 4900' elevation gain, 10 miles, 9.75 miles.
Feb 24	Cross	Rockwell, Huey, guest: Chuck Faris	
	Cross & Chuckawala	Brown, Huey	Combined elevation 4000' gain and loss
Mar 19	Whitney Portal	Rockwell, Sakai, Gates, Franklin	We used a new tool to build a nine-foot igloo below Whitney Portal.
Mar 25-26	Olancha	Huey, Bishop, Brown, guests Bill Stratton, Dan & Amy Goriesky	We left 0900 Saturday from the trailhead and took a shortcut that starts up a draw where the foot trail joins the cow trail NW of pass. Dan & Amy stopped at 9000' elevation. The others stopped after 7½ hours at 9790' (below Bear Trap Meadow) after ~4.28 miles and 4000' gain. Sunday, we set a turn around time for 1300. Brown and Stratton turned around 2000' below the summit. Bishop & Huey got to the bump on the ridge 1000' below the peak. We packed up by 1330 and were out by 1600. So Olancha is doable as a winter trip with 2 long days. Best bet is 3 days.
Apr 8	Big Horn Park	Rockwell, Toler	
Apr 23	Thor via secret route	Rockwell, Sakai, Huey, Bishop, Brown, and 4 guests	Drove to portal. Hit snow fairly early. Snow shoes on at plateau. Good climb. All made it up and down.
Apr 29	Thor	Rockwell, Hinman	Turned around at Mirror Lake. Soft snow made for tough going.
	5 Fingers	Bishop, Franklin	Traverse. Dog did 4 of 5 fingers.
	Rock climb	Runkle, Hinman	
May 5-7	Telescope	Myers, Sakai	Snow at about 9700'. Ridge was solid snow.

All that is gold does not glitter; not all those that wander are lost.
—J. R. R. Tolkien

THE CLINIC

Identifying bones

http://www3.wa-sar.net/SAR_Library/misc/Human_vs_nonHuman.pdf

DETERMINATION OF HUMAN VERSUS NON-HUMAN SKELETAL MATERIAL

Kathy Taylor, Ph.D.
Forensic Anthropologist
King County Medical Examiner's Office
Seattle, Washington, USA

The author of this document has authorized unrestricted copying and redistribution for educational and training purposes. (The editor of this newsletter and his loyal assistant, Dr. Janet Westbrook, have taken certain liberties with the original text. We are grateful to Dr. Taylor for her work.)

DETERMINATION OF HUMAN VERSUS NON-HUMAN BONES

The problem: All mammals have the same basic skeletal plan. Humans are just a variation on the theme.

The good news: Humans are the only bipedal mammal and so exhibit some fairly obvious morphological differences.

Two main areas of distinction:

- size
- morphology

SIZE

Immature skeletal materials exhibit epiphyses (ends of the bones) that make skeletal analysis of immature individuals a nightmare but does provide a valuable tool in the determination of human versus non-human. If you encounter a small long bone, for example, that looks like a complete human bone but is small (i.e., makes you think it might be from an infant or child), it is most likely NOT human. Human long bones are not complete (have the ends attached) until growth of the bone is complete.

Size of the bone and areas of muscle attachment reflect muscle mass of the animal. This is most important for distinguishing adult long bones (bones of the extremities).

MORPHOLOGY

Humans are the only two-legged animals we are likely to encounter here. Consequently, the bones of the trunk (particularly the pelvis and scapula) exhibit a unique morphology. Differences in epiphyseal formation and morphology of smaller bones—metacarpals (hand bones) and metatarsals (foot bones)—can also prove useful.

A FEW TIPS

Cranium: The most frequently recovered skeletal element and fortunately the most distinct. It can be tricky, however, when fragmentary. The best shot is to look at the teeth.

Adult dentition: 2 incisors, 1 canine, 2 premolars, 3 molars.

Subadult dentition: 2 incisors, 1 canine, 2 molars.

Non-human teeth often exhibit pointy cusps and large canines (on carnivores) or incisors (rodents). Most humans have had some kind of dental work done.

Vertebrae: Non-human tend to have tall centra (the round part) with small surface area for articulation and short, blocky spinous processes (the sideways ones). Non-human vertebrae have an epiphyseal CAP. Humans have an epiphyseal RING.

Ribs: Non-human ribs tend to have small head, large tubercles. They tend to be flat and wide and have less curvature. Careful: Ribs are tricky, especially when fragmentary.

Scapula: On many non-human animals, the widest dimension of the scapula is side to side (medial to lateral) with a large scapular spine (the ridge).

Innominate: Refers to the 3 bones that make up each side of the pelvis. Humans have broad ilia (blade of pelvis creating bowl shape) and large acetabulums for articulation with head of femur (what we sit on). Non-human animals have tall, thin ilia; are narrow anterior to posterior; and have small acetabulums.

Humerus/Femur: In non-human animals, the head may be incomplete (i.e., not completely round) and rarely has a significant neck (bone between head and shaft). Human femurs have a near perfectly round "trailer hitch" head with a narrow neck to the femur.

Tibia: Non-human animals tend to have large tibial tuberosities (bumps—humans don't) and a distal end with multiple extensions (think ankle joint).

NOTE

The non-human remains most commonly mistaken for human are bear paws, which do look remarkably like human hands with one important (and extremely simple) difference. The head of a human metacarpal (bone of the hand) is smooth. On a bear, the head of the metacarpal has a ridge running down the middle. Humans have short thumbs. And if they're still there, bears have claws and humans have fingernails.

REFERENCES

If you are looking for good human osteology references, check out the following:

The Anatomy and Biology of the Human Skeleton. D. Gentry Steele and Claud A. Bramblett.

Texas A&M University Press. 1988.

Human Osteology. Tim White. Academic Press. 1991.

Human Osteology: A Laboratory and Field Manual. William M. Bass.

Missouri Archaeological Society, Inc. 1987.

DONATIONS

Terry Mitchell

CLMRG gratefully acknowledges recent gifts from the following friends:

2005 CFC Pledge
Mojave Valley CFC for 2005-2006
Lyal D. and Marilyn J. Viers
John J. Olley
Dwight Morgan
Lori Williams

Ridgecrest, California
Dunsmuir, California

SCREE

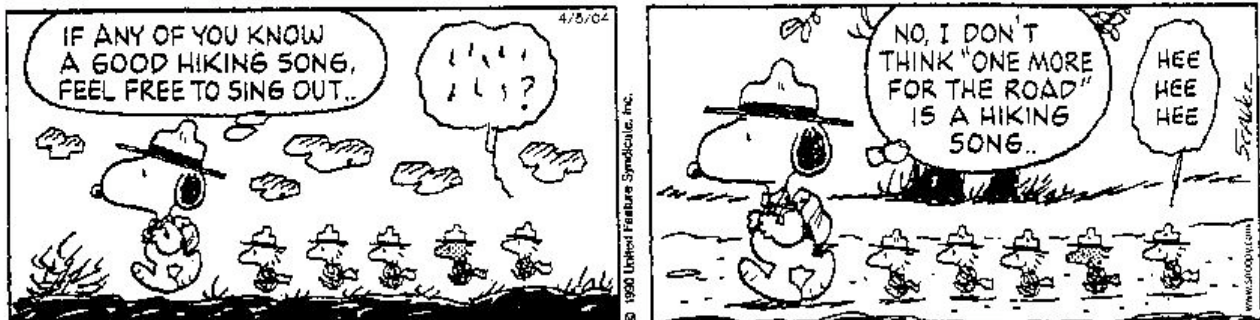
Check our web page at www.clmrg.org.

Check the California Region's web page at www.crmra.org.

Newsletters from other MRA groups, gear catalogs, etc. are available in the hut.

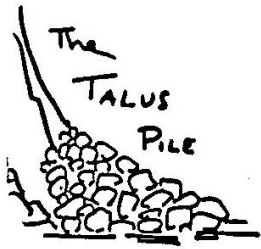
All telephone numbers in *The Talus Pile* are area code 760 unless noted otherwise.

CLASSIC PEANUTS



As in any alpine region, the weather is changeable, protection questionable, route-finding bewildering, rockfall frequent, and descents tedious. In short, it's everything you could ever ask for.

--From the Canadian Alpine Journal, 1993



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Address Correction Requested

