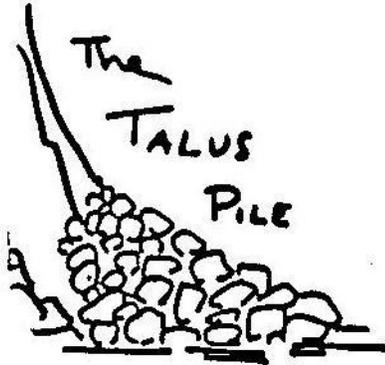


NUMBER 147
September 2010



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P. O. BOX 2037
RIDGECREST CA 93556

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Sep 29-30	Wed-Thu	Norman Clyde's Death Valley to Whitney trip	Rockwell
Oct 1-3	Fri-Sun	Open	TC
Oct 9-11	Fri-Mon	Yosemite Valley (Lower Pine)	Derkey
Oct 13	Wed	Community First Aid	Finco
Oct 18	Mon	Meeting	Rockwells
Oct 16-17	Fri-Sun	Open	TC
Oct 23-24	Sat-Sun	Open	TC
Oct 29-31	Fri-Sun	Open	TC
Nov 17	Wed	CPR	FAC

TC : Training Committee Eileen.loughran@clmrg.org

FAC: First Aid Committee linda.finco@clmrg.org

We are in the process of establishing our Fall Training Schedule. If you are interested in getting updates on the training to be scheduled, please email Eileen.loughran@clmrg.org

*Six glossy black crows
Strut pompously through the yard
Like Halloween props.*

--Lura Osgood



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

OPERATION REPORTS

Operation 2010-03 (Incident)

3 July 2010

Whitney Trail (Inyo County)

By Bob Rockwell

Summary:

Operation Leader: Bob Rockwell.

Subject: Suzanne Grove.

Outcome: With help, the subject walked out to the Portal for self-treatment.

CLMRG members: Bob Rockwell, Tom Sakai, Dave Doerr.

Narrative:

This started out to be a routine loop trip climb of Candlelight, up from Meysan Canyon and down to Bighorn Park. Tom Sakai, Dave Doerr, guest Jay du Nesme, and I participated. The end of the day provided an interesting twist.

We encountered Suzanne Grove and her husband Andrew, from Salt Lake City, at 1930 about 1.5 miles from the Portal. The descent from a day climb of Mt. Whitney (they had started up at 0230) had taken its toll on her knees, and she was barely able to stand. She said she didn't think she could make it the rest of the way down. I had a radio and alerted Inyo dispatch of the situation. They stood by, ready to send help should it prove necessary.

But taping and wrapping by Tom, ibuprofen, hiking pole instruction, and some physical assistance, including my carrying her for a while, did the trick. She made it down to the Portal pretty much on her own, a few minutes after 2100. I turned off Inyo dispatch, which had remained open just in case. (They normally shut down at 1800.) The Groves then headed for the Dow Villa Motel and its ice machine for some post-trauma therapy as Tom and I had advised.

Lessons learned:

N/A.

Equipment needed, replaced, or repaired:

N/A

Operation 2010-04 (Search)

OES #2010-LAW-0212

15-16 July 2010

Lamarck Col (Inyo County)

By Dan Bishop

Summary:

Operation Leader: Dan Bishop.

Subject: Valerie Ice.

Outcome: Found in good condition.

CLMRG members: Dan Bishop (Operation Leader), Carol Burge (Coordinator), Dave Miles, Bob Rockwell, Nathan Simons, Jeff Green, Daryl Hinman, Tom Sakai, Bill Stratton.

Narrative:

Inyo County requested our help in a search for a missing backpacker in the Lamarck Col area. Mike Myers had received the call from Sgt. Edgerle and then had called me. I also had a voice mail message from Inyo Deputy Sheriff Tim Winkler letting me know of the pending request. When I contacted Inyo SAR, they requested four Type 1 searchers for this operation because they anticipated that limited helicopter resources would be available. C. Burge agreed to be the Coordinator, and I asked her to start a limited call-out down the roster until she had eight commitments.

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The subject, Valerie Ice, from Mammoth Lakes, CA hiked in to the east side of Lamarck Col from the North Lake trailhead carrying food to resupply two friends who were attempting the John Muir trail. When they did not rendezvous in Darwin Canyon as planned, the two friends hiked over the Col from the west and discovered Ice's abandoned camp. They then contacted the Inyo Sheriff via cell phone near the Col. Because of thunderstorms in the area, no helicopter operations were possible that day, and no teams were inserted. We were to arrive at the Bishop Airport at 0700 the next day for an anticipated early helicopter pick-up.

Miles, Simons, Sakai, Hinman, J.Green, Rockwell, Stratton, and I met at the Hut at 0430. Arriving at the Command Post (CP), we learned that a CH-47 helicopter out of Stockton would be used but would not arrive until later in the morning. Not wanting to rely completely on the helicopter, the CP gave field assignments to the teams. Even though Ice's tent and overnight gear were still at her camp, her friends relayed that on inventorying her gear, they realized that she had her down jacket, rain gear, and obviously a sufficient amount of food with her. They also said that she was "navigationally challenged" and that she had no off-trail experience. The CP theorized that it would be likely that she could mistakenly go over the pass just east of Lamarck Col and could drop into the Schober Lakes basin rather than the intended Darwin Canyon. Stratton went in the field with a ground team of Mono and Inyo SAR members out of Lake Sabrina to Dingleberry Lake in order to check the Schober Lakes area, the area of highest probability. Hinman, J.Green, Sakai, and I took the assignment to search the basin north of Lamarck Col via the North Lake trailhead to see if she had taken the wrong pass to the north.

Miles and Simons were to wait for the helicopter for insertion at Ice's camp near the Col. Rockwell was to be flown to the ridge east of the Col to set up a radio relay before searching the ridge south of her camp.

At 1120, just as team members were in the CH-47 preparing for takeoff, the call came in from the Col that Ice had been found returning to her camp. My team turned around above Lower Lamarck Lake and made it back to the vehicle just before it started to rain. Stratton and his team were above Dingleberry Lake but did not make it out before the rain started.

The Inyo County Sheriff treated us to lunch, and we were back in the Hut by 1630.

We learned later that Ice had indeed headed down the wrong pass into Schober Lakes, where she spent two nights before heading back up. The hikers who found her had abandoned their climb the previous day to help her two JMT friends look for her.

Lessons learned:

N/A.

Equipment needed, replaced, or repaired:

N/A

Operation 2010-05 (Incident)

25 July 2010

Mt. Morrison (Mono County)

By Linda Finco

Summary:

Operation Leader: Linda Finco.

Subject: Bud Gates.

Outcome: Subject walked out in fair condition.

CLMRG members: Linda Finco (Operation Leader), Bill Stratton, Bud Gates.

Narrative:

The weekend of 24-25 July was for our Basic Mountaineering and Mountaineering Safety Class overnight trips. Bud Gates, Bill Stratton, and I led three students on the Mt. Morrison trip. Things were going as scheduled until Sunday morning. We were up at 0530 and had breakfast. We started to wander back to our tents a little after 0600 to get ready for the hike to the summit. I was camped near Bud and noticed he was lying on his bivy tent. Bud was up and feeling fine at breakfast, but he collapsed when he went back to his tent to put his daypack together for the hike. He said he was feeling dizzy and sick.

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I asked him if he was OK with the idea of staying in camp while the rest of us continued the climb. Although he agreed, he was unsure whether he would be able to hike out later because he was so dizzy. Because it was still early and our start time was originally 0700, I spoke with the others and decided we would wait and see how Bud felt in about 45 minutes before doing anything. This decision gave us time to start packing up our overnight gear.

I checked on Bud about every 15 minutes, and after 45 minutes, I thought his condition was worsening especially his level of consciousness. He could answer questions, but his responses were slow, and at times, he struggled to answer. I asked if he was on any medication or had any recent health problems that could be contributing to this condition, and he said no. Bud's breathing was normal, and his pulse was in the 70s, so nothing was there to cause serious concern.

During this time, one of the students hiked to various points around the campsite looking to see if we had cell phone coverage. We had three phones, but none had coverage in the area. I checked on Bud one last time before making any decisions. I asked Bud to sit up, but he could not sit for 10 seconds before things started spinning and he had to lie down. Based on Bud's condition, I decided we had to focus on getting him out versus gaining Morrison's summit. A student and I took the three cell phones and hiked back toward the vehicles. (The student remembered getting a good signal at our rest break on the hike in the day before, so that is where we headed.)

I asked Bill to check on Bud every so often and, if Bud could start moving, to split up his gear (leaving some for us when we returned to carry out) and to start down with Bud. When we got to a point just above where we stopped for the rest break, two of the three phones had coverage, but only one was able to dial out. Bill's phone had a number for the Inyo County sheriff, which we used. (Even though we believed we were in Mono County, we were not sure). The number rang but no one picked up, so we started calling CLMRG members. After getting a couple of answering machines, we reached Bob Rockwell. I told Bob what was going on, and he called back with a 24-hour number for Inyo. We contacted Inyo, and they took the information but needed to verify the jurisdiction. They told us to hang up to save battery power after saying they or Mono would call back.

About 10 minutes later, we got a call from the Mono County sheriff SAR coordinator. We decided on a stretcher evacuation. I told the sheriff we would try to start walking Bud out if he were mobile and meet them on the way out. Then the battery died, and we had no more communications. In the hour or so we were gone from camp, Bud was starting to feel less light-headed and was up and moving. At this time, Bud remembered that he had taken Tylenol that morning for a mild headache, and he was now pretty sure he had taken Tylenol 3 by mistake. (Later, we learned he had taken three Tylenol 3 pills.)

We split up Bud's gear and started hiking down around 0900. When I saw that Bud was moving pretty well and that Bill was staying with him, a student and I went ahead to try to intercept the Mono SAR team as low as possible to keep them from carrying the stretcher any farther than they already had and to make sure we did not pass each other unknowingly on alternate trails. We intercepted Mono SAR about 20 minutes from their vehicles. I suggested that they leave the stretcher but have an EMT go on up to check on Bud's condition.

At this time, lightning was striking in the area, and it was beginning to rain. Mono SAR was there to assist Bud now, so I hiked down with the students to get them out of the storm. The EMT determined that Bud's vitals were still depressed, and he put Bud on oxygen for the rest of the descent. At noon, we were all back in the vehicles just as the rain started dumping really hard. We drove down to Mono's base camp on Mt. Morrison Road and after filling out paperwork, Bud was released around 1300. The EMT recommended that Bud go to the hospital, but Bud declined and said he would seek his own medical care. We stopped in Bishop for a late lunch and got back to Ridgcrest a little before 1700.

(cont'd on next page)

Lessons learned:

Bud's symptoms led me to believe he was having some sort of a drug reaction, but he said he was not on any medications other than a sleeping aid that he did not bring with him on the trip. I do not believe that this would have changed our decisions, but it would have provided additional information to the sheriff and the EMT. Bud knew he carried Tylenol 3, but he thought it was labeled as such, only the label had worn off. Everyone needs to ensure that their medicines are labeled correctly and to check the wear of the labels over time. (This is true even for medicines at home.) The symptoms for the side effects of Tylenol 3 are dizziness, light-headedness, nausea, sedation, shortness of breath, and vomiting, almost exactly the symptoms Bud was displaying exacerbated by the accidental overdose in taking three pills.

Equipment needed, replaced, or repaired:

N/A

Operation 2010-06 (Recovery)

OES # 2010-LAW-0227

30 July 2010

Trail Camp Mt. Whitney Trail (Inyo County)

By Linda Finco

Summary:

Operation Leader: Linda Finco.

Subject: A 63-year-old female.

Outcome: Body extracted.

CLMRG members: Linda Finco (Operation Leader), Elaine Riendeau (Coordinator), Terry Mitchell (Coordinator), Dave Miles, Tom Sakai, Bob Rockwell, Jeff Green, Dan Bishop, Nathan Simons.

Narrative:

On Friday, 30 July, Sgt. Dan Edgerle called Mike Myers with a request from Inyo County for help in a recovery at Trail Camp on the Mt. Whitney Trail. Myers was vacationing in Northern California and called me at work shortly after 0800. I took the operation, and Elaine Riendeau and Terry Mitchell shared the duties of coordinator for the duration of the operation.

The request was for a 63-year-old woman who had died from an apparent health issue early Friday morning after complaining to her hiking partners that she was having difficulty breathing (shortness of breath) on their ascent to Trail Crest. With assistance, she had made it back down to Trail Camp, where she collapsed and later died. Inyo needed help bringing her down in a stretcher from Trail Camp to Whitney Portal. Dave Miles, Tom Sakai, Bob Rockwell, Jeff Green, and I met at the hut at 0930 and departed for the Portal, where we met up with Cpl. Terry Waterbury, Inyo County Deputy Sheriff.

Inyo SAR had already started up the trail toward Trail Camp. We started up the trail at 1100. Dan Bishop and Nathan Simons left Ridgecrest at 1100 and would later meet us just above Mirror Lake to assist in the carryout. Miles and Green met with Inyo just below Trail Camp while the rest of us were told to wait and rest just below Trailside Meadow to assist with the carry out from that point down. We arrived back at the Portal with the body at 1700. The sheriff treated us to dinner, and we arrived back at the hut at 2030.

Lessons learned:

The new Internal roster lists Primary, Work (7-5 M-F), and Secondary contact numbers for all members. Dan Bishop had a message left only on his work answering machine, and as a result, he called after the first team had departed to see what was going on. If he had been called on his cell phone, he probably would have departed at 0930 with the rest of the team. Coordinators do call all contact numbers especially during daytime hours when people can be at home, in transit (cell), or at work. This time, it was merely an oversight.

Equipment needed, replaced, or repaired:

N/A

Operation 2010-07 (Rescue)

OES # 2010-LAW-0238

06-07 August 2010

Outpost Camp Mt. Whitney Trail (Inyo County)

By Dan Bishop

Summary:

Operation Leader: Dan Bishop.

Subject: A 40-year-old male.

Outcome: Subject rescued.

CLMRG members: Dan Bishop (Operation Leader), Gina Niesen (Coordinator), Nathan Simons, Dave Doerr.

Narrative:

At 2000 on 6 August, I received a call from Inyo County Deputy Sheriff Tim Winkler to let me know about a pending request to assist them with some of what turned out to be five simultaneous operations in Inyo County. Gina Niesen agreed to be the Coordinator and started the call-out. I called KCSO Sgt. Baldwin to inform him of the situation. By 2100 we had an OES number and commitments from Nathan Simons and Dave Doerr. We met at the Hut, loaded gear, and departed by 2200.

Arriving at Whitney Portal and getting briefed by Cpl. Waterbury, we learned that one of the operations, a search in Rock Creek, had been resolved. The missing party was not really missing. A second operation had also resolved itself. A 20-year-old woman at Trail Camp had reported severe AMS but had managed to hike out with the assistance of others also hiking down. Two other separate subjects were still on the Whitney Trail. One was an 80-year-old man complaining of AMS and hypothermia; the other was a 40-year-old man with a broken foot who was reported heading down the Trail from Outpost Camp. The fifth Inyo operation was continuing up the North Fork of Big Pine Creek with the report that a subject was suffering from a broken leg at First Lake. Cpl. Waterbury asked us to head up the Whitney Trail to assist the four Inyo hasty team members who were an hour ahead of us.

On the trail before midnight, we carried the Inyo Gamow Bag as well as a single tank of oxygen from our O₂ pack. Around 0100 we met the subject with the broken foot, Tim Marsh, below Lone Pine Lake. He was being assisted by an Inyo team member who had taken him a pair of crutches. Marsh was near the summit when a known hair-line fracture in his foot broke. He had managed to make his way down this far with help from his hiking partner. His progress appeared to be very slow, but we continued up to the other subject at Trail Camp.

The Inyo hasty team had made it to the 80-year-old at Trail Camp. We were standing by at Outpost Camp waiting to see if we needed to haul the stretcher and wheel or any other equipment that was stored at the ranger's cache. Inyo's evaluation was that although the subject was ill-equipped (cotton clothing, tennis shoes, no food or water), he was stable thanks to a good Samaritan who had put him in her tent and sleeping bag. Inyo was going to spend the night with him at the ranger's yurt and either hike out with him or request the CHP helicopter to extract him in the morning.

By this time, Marsh (the 40-year-old with the broken foot) had reached the point where he could not continue on his own, so a carry-out was needed. At 0230, we took the stretcher and wheel from Outpost camp down the trail to Marsh, placed him in the stretcher, and spent the next two hours carrying him down. The going was slow and tiring because we had only four persons to man the stretcher. Just before the trail head, another Inyo member who had left Trail Camp met us and helped for the last 20 minutes.

Cpl. Waterbury released us a little after 0500 because they were expecting a helicopter extraction of the subject with the broken leg at First Lake and we would not be needed. We were back at the Hut at 0730.

(cont'd on next page)

Lessons learned:

- Gamow bag: We didn't use it, but it might be worth investigating.
- The drive home after an all-night operation was not fun. Consider committing to help support even if you do not want to be put in the field.
- Inyo Command Post (CP) was only one person, Cpl. Waterbury. Consider committing to help support the CP if you do not want to be put in the field.
- Call out procedures should include primary and secondary phone numbers to be used. Leave messages when appropriate.

Equipment needed, replaced, or repaired:

N/A

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Russell, 9–10 July 2010

By Bob Rockwell

CLMRG members Bill Stratton, Jeff Green, and I climbed Mt. Russell—the striking peak that sits a mile north of Mt. Whitney—for training and conditioning. At 14,086 feet above sea level, it's perhaps the most cherished mountain in the area outside of Whitney itself. There are several routes, none of which is easy. Far and away the most popular is the class 3 East Ridge, an exposed arête that Norman Clyde used for his first ascent 84 years ago almost to the day.

The arête is a full quarter-mile of fine and exposed climbing on solid granite, but getting to the start of it is a chore. After hiking the use trail up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek, turn right at Clyde Meadow and slog up a tedious sand and scree slope that gains 1500 feet. This loose slope is the only distraction on the East Ridge route.

Several years ago, we discovered an alternative way that, in my opinion, is much nicer overall. (See photo to the right.) That's how we did it this time.

We camped at Upper Boy Scout Lake, only a 10-minute hike past Clyde Meadow. The next morning, we ascended the drainage behind Upper Boy Scout Lake until blocked by Russell's southwest face. Turning sharply right and up and then left to negotiate a steep cliff band, we passed through Sakai Col¹ and were soon looking at Russell's South Face.



From Sakai Col, it was about 800 feet up on good terrain to the crux of the climb, where there is a choice of two short class 4 pitches. (See photo to the left.) We took the left one, a compact chimney with good holds, and although we had a short rope along, we didn't bother to get it out. At the top of the chimney, this route joins the East Ridge, and the climb finishes on its best parts.

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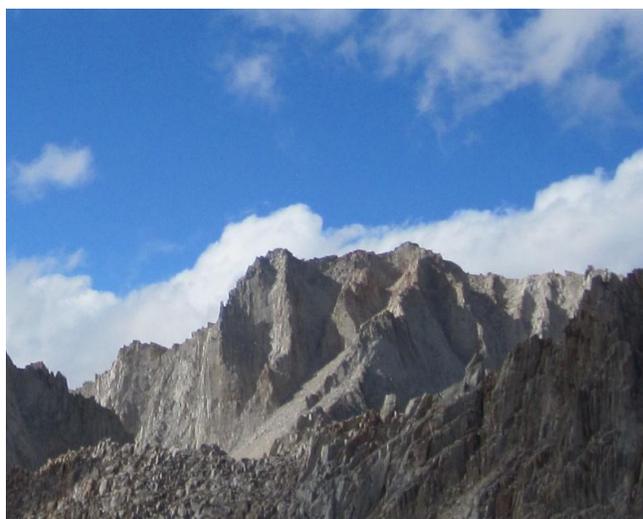
¹ Named for long-time CLMRG member Tom Sakai

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We reached the summit 20 minutes later under clouds that had been threatening all day. While being a little unnerved by the potential weather, especially with the accompanying thunder and lightning all around and on nearby peaks, it made for some great pictures.

Leaving the summit, one can always go back the way one ascended, but Russell offers a couple of other options. We initially descended the way we came up, but upon reaching Sakai Col, we decided to continue over Whitney-Russell Pass to Iceberg Lake. Then we had a good use trail back to our camp at Upper Boy Scout Lake.

Another option is to descend the East Ridge, which also makes a loop trip and provides the benefit of more fine class 3 climbing. Furthermore, that somewhat dreadful 1500 feet of loose terrain going up is a pleasant scree ride going down.



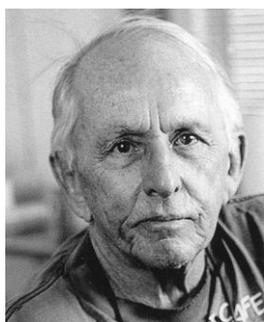
To sum it up, Russell is one of the nicest relatively easy climbs in the area. Approaching it by the variation that goes behind Upper Boy Scout Lake, over Sakai Col, and up to the South Face, is a great way to do it. Returning via one of the alternative routes is icing on the cake.

Pictures of our climb can be viewed at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rockwellb/sets/72157624471060544>

PASSAGES

Howard F. Derrickson (1928-2009)

Howard F. Derrickson passed away on July 26, 2009 from congestive heart failure at Cedar-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. Born Dec. 13, 1928 in Sheridan, Wyoming, he was 80 years old.



Howard was a resident of Red Mountain since 1964. He served in the US Army from 1946-1949 with the 11th ABN Division stationed in Japan. He re-enlisted and served from 1950-1952 with the 40th Infantry Division stationed in Korea. He retired after 33 years as a civil engineer in 1988 from the Naval Air Weapons Center at China Lake, California.

Howard enjoyed hiking, mountaineering, oil painting, reading, and traveling the world. He was a member of the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group (CLMRG) from 1981 to 1988. He was also a member of the Maturango Museum. A talented amateur artist, he created some of the drawings CLMRG uses in its Group Manual and its summer class publicity fliers.

Howard is survived by his wife Joann Barbee of Red Mountain; sister Arlene Egelhoff and her husband Mike of Loma Linda; half-sister Sandra Sohay and husband Richard of Redlands; step-son Anthony Barnhardt and wife Janna of Inyokern; grandchildren Brad Barnhardt of Huntington Beach and Christy Barnhardt of Ridgecrest; and great-grandchild Kyra Barnhardt.

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Phelps TerHeun (1934-2008)

By Linda Finco

Phelps's many years of service to CLMRG (from September 1983 to February 2007) included training us on and maintaining our ELT equipment, keeping us up to date on the latest in radio technologies (he was a HAM amateur radio operator), maintaining our radio license, and helping with our radios during our base camp duties. Phelps was the go-to guy in these areas.

By Al Green

Phelps was most active in teaching us how to use our ELT equipment and in maintaining that gear and our radios. He was a valuable resource in that area.

[Editor: The next item appeared in the 9/16/99 issue of the Naval Air Weapons Station's Weaponeer.]

TerHeun's many inventions noted with presentation of NMCSA



Phelps TerHeun

On Aug. 2, Phelps TerHeun, of the Radar Systems Warning Section, received the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award from Capt. Bert Johnston, Weapons Division commander, for his many accomplishments as a senior technologist in the radar field.

During his 29 years of federal service, TerHeun invented the Integrated Filter Grate channelized receiver — used in the EA-6B ICAP III upgrade — and the TAMPA, pro-forma, multi-processor computer architecture for the DoD language, Ada. He participated in defining the very-

high-speed integrated circuit design architectures for advanced tactical radar warning receivers. "This was really an interesting situation," he said, "and a lot of fun to work on."

He was also the principal designer of the receiver in the Interim Continuous Wave Detector Warning System. The receiver was an adaptation of an off-the-shelf "fuzzbuster" traffic radar detector.

The Continuous Wave Radar Warning Receiver went from blank paper to initial operational capability in 91 days, providing near immediate response to a critical need to support

a potential conflict in the Middle East. TerHeun was the primary hardware engineer for the next generation AN/ALR-67(V)3 Radar Warning Receiver. And, he also serves as a microwave consultant to the F/A-18, EA-6B, AV-8B and AN/ALR-67(V)2 programs.

His most recent accomplishment is the development of the concept and design for a high-performance, polarization-diverse, tactical radar warning receiver antenna. This Navy Integrated Antenna Down-converter technology is used by all three services.

SCREE

Check our web page at clmrg.org.

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

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

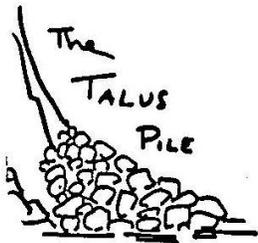
[Editor: Long-time CLMRG member Carol Burge provides this message from BLM via members of the local running and cycling clubs.]

Greetings,

I just wanted to let you know that we are planning another clean-up on Saturday November 6, 2010 for National Public Lands Day 2010. The same as last year, we are planning to meet at the College Heights parking lot at 8 a.m. and then go to the shooting area near Hwy 395 once again. If you guys are interested, please let me know. You are welcome to pass the word on. Thank you!

Rob Enriquez

(760) 384-5447



China Lake Mountain Rescue Group
P. O. Box 2037
Ridgecrest CA 93556

Address Correction Requested

