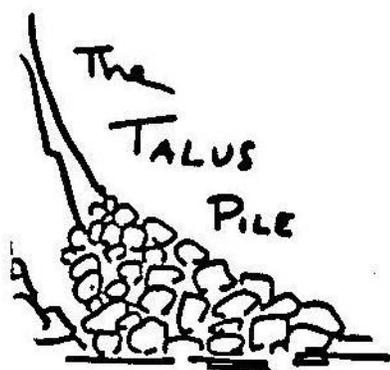


NUMBER 152

April 2012



## CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P. O. BOX 2037  
RIDGECREST CA 93556

### **TRAINING SCHEDULE**

Apr	9	Meeting	C. Burge, Hueber
Apr	13	Tyrolean at Girl Scouts Encampment	Sakai
Apr	TBD	Rock Skills - Anchors	Hinman
Apr	14-15	Open	
Apr	TBD	First Aid	Finco
Apr	TBD	Running Incident Command Training	Loughran
Apr	21-22	Cactus to Clouds Trail San Jacinto	Huey
Apr	28	CERT Block Party	Finco
Apr	30-2	Open	
May	5	Stretcher Practice	Myers
May	14	Meeting	Huey, Derkey
May	25-27	Whitney, 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rockwell's First Ascent	Rockwell
Jun	2	Craig Canyon	Derkey
Jun	9-10	Mt. Russell	Rockwell
Jun	9-10	National MRA Lake Tahoe	Derkey
Jun	11	Meeting	
Jun	12	Start of Summer Class	Simons

For TBD dates contact [Eileen.loughran@clmrg.org](mailto:Eileen.loughran@clmrg.org)

### **SCREE**

If you are receiving the Talus Pile via the US mail and you want to go GREEN, we can email you the Talus Pile, or you can check it out on our web page at <http://www.clmrg.org/>  
Contact Linda Finco with your email address at [fincolj@aol.com](mailto:fincolj@aol.com) with your GREEN request.



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

## **OPERATION REPORTS**

### **Operation 2011-21 (Search) OES # 2009-LAW-0380**

21-22 December 2011

Randsburg (Kern County)

By Tom Roseman

#### **Summary:**

Search for two missing people out on an ATV who left their motel in Randsburg on Saturday, 17 December for a late night ride. CLMRG was contacted to assist on Thursday, 22 December with the on-going search.

#### **Narrative:**

Dave Miles heard early in the week that there was an ongoing search underway in the Randsburg area and issued a heads-up that we might be called. Dave received a call from Sgt. Baldwin on Wednesday, 21 December at 1520, asking for help on Thursday morning with an emphasis on assisting at the Command Post (CP). Carol Burge signed on as coordinator, and I agreed to be the Operation Leader. Al Green, Bill Stratton, Dave Miles, Dan Bishop and I met at the hut around 0600 the next morning and headed out for Randsburg. Since Carol needed to go out of town, Terry Mitchell agreed to take over as coordinator.

We arrived to a massive scene at the CP just south of Randsburg. The subjects, Christopher Rice and Daniel Carbonara, went missing Saturday night having left a Randsburg hotel for a late night ride in a side-by-side ATV. They never returned or called in, and a joint Kern County and San Bernardino County operation had been growing in scope every day since then. Approximately 20 field teams: dirt bikes, quads, jeeps, ATVs, were briefed around 0730 and fielded within an hour. Al and Bill were combined with a team of other vehicles and went off to search in Al's jeep. Dave, Dan and I stayed in CP waiting for an assignment. Early afternoon we were given the job of debriefing teams as they came out of the field and beginning to prepare to take over running the CP for the next Operational period. Around this time learned that the subjects had been located north east of Government Peak. They were located 1,000 vertical feet below the peak, having apparently driven off of the mountain side late Saturday evening or early Sunday morning. A Ventura off road motorbike team had spotted a small red object in the canyon below the summit and on further searching located the remains of the ATV and the two deceased subjects. At this point it was not clear if the subjects could be recovered by helicopter, so I called to see if Terry could find someone to bring out technical rescue gear. Tom Sakai volunteered; however, around the same time he arrived with the equipment the Kern County Air-5 helicopter was able to land and extract the subjects. We finished our job debriefing the Ventura team when they made it back to CP.

To aid in the transfer of the operation data, both the Kern and San Bernardino Sheriff requested a USB thumb drive. Dave had one at home and called his son to bring it out. This action helped to speed things up to end the operation. The teams were debriefed and we drove back to the hut, finishing up around 1800.

### **Operation 2012-01 (Search and Rescue) OES # 2012-LAW-0001**

2 Jan 2012

CARMA Observatory (Inyo County)

By Dave Miles

#### **Summary:**

Search for a man who left Sunday, 1 January to look for a cave in the Westgard Pass area and did not return home.

#### **Narrative:**

At 0515 on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, 2012, I, Dave Miles, got a call from Inyo County Deputy Sheriff Tim Winkler requesting mutual aid to search for a lost caver. George Derrick had gone up to Westgard Pass to visit a cave on Sunday. After failing to return that evening his wife reported him missing. The Inyo SAR team had searched for him during the night and needed more searchers. I called Terry Mitchell to coordinate and we met at the hut at 0630. Dan Bishop, Linda Finco, and I arrived at the CP (CARMA Observatory) at 0830 and

were given our assignment as Team 3. Our objective was to find George's track near his vehicle (PLS). The tracking was very difficult in the shale rock, but we were able to find a track that we suspected belonged to our subject. We cut along the bottom of the canyon north of the PLS and found a solid set of solo tracks heading down the canyon. We were sure this was our subject and radioed the CP. This was an important turn of events because the search had been focused down the east side of the ridge to where the cave location was believed to be. The tracks we were on led to the actual location of the cave in a canyon to the north. When all of the teams dropped into the canyons we lost radio communication with the CP. At this time a CHP helicopter was involved in the search effort and heard our call about the tracks. The Helo began searching down canyon from our location where they spotted the cave entrance and a black bag at the bottom of the cliffs about 150 feet below our location. I directed them to gain altitude and radio their findings to the CP while we hurried down to the cave. The helicopter was our radio relay to the CP.

We got to the cave at 1130 and yelled down the hole, George answered back that he was not hurt but had left his ascenders in the pack at the opening of the cave. He had rappelled about 40 feet down into the cave and was now unable to get back out. We had the CHP helicopter fly back to our vehicle where they landed and picked up our MAIN bag and our 200 ft static rope bag. They returned and dropped the equipment to us. I was lowered into the cave, accessed George's condition and gave him some food and water. Despite spending the night in the cave, he was in good condition. He had slept near the back of the cave and was fairly comfortable. Team 2 from Inyo joined us shortly afterwards and together we hoisted George out of the cave around 1230 using a 3:1 set up by Bishop, Finco and members of the Inyo team. I decided to have him hoisted out solo since he was not injured. This would cut the load in half, making it easier to raise and less risk of edge abrasion. After George was out of the cave, he was then hoisted in to the CHP helicopter and flown back to the CP.

We hiked back to our vehicle and drove back to the CP for a debrief. Afterwards we drove to Big Pine and had lunch with the Inyo team before returning to the Hut at 1700. As always this was a good joint effort with the Inyo team.

### **Operation 2012-02 (Search)**

15-16 January 2012

Ridgecrest (Kern County)

By Dan Bishop

#### **Summary:**

Search for missing man who wandered off from his caretaker's residence.

#### **Narrative:**

Dave Miles received notice of a missing man west of town from Kern County Sheriff Sgt. Baldwin at 10 pm, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Sheila Rockwell agreed to be Coordinator with Gina Niesen assisting. I, Dan Bishop, was called at 10:30 pm and took over as Operation Leader. Our Team rendezvoused at the missing man's residence, W. Burns Street, while I went to the Hut to acquire the vehicle, radios, and other equipment. By 11pm the entire Team: Dave Miles, Linda Finco, Tom Roseman, Debbie Breitenstein, Tom Sakai, Paul DeRuiter, Al Green, and Daryl Hinman, were at the place last seen (PLS) searching for the subject's tracks.

The subject, 65 y/o Philip Muse, had been reported missing by his Caretaker after he failed to return from his daily walk. He was last seen at 1pm. Mr. Muse was first reported as suffering from Alzheimer's disease. No contact information was known about the Subject's family or friends.

Our Team had isolated his tracks; however, because he performed daily walks around the residence and vicinity, it was difficult to determine a direction of travel. Distributing radios to our four teams of two I began to deploy them in an effort to determine where the Subject had gone. At 12am six members of the Indian Wells Valley team arrived; Mark, Eric, Bill, Nicki, Robert, and Byran. I briefed them, showed them the tracks and deployed them to the north and east.

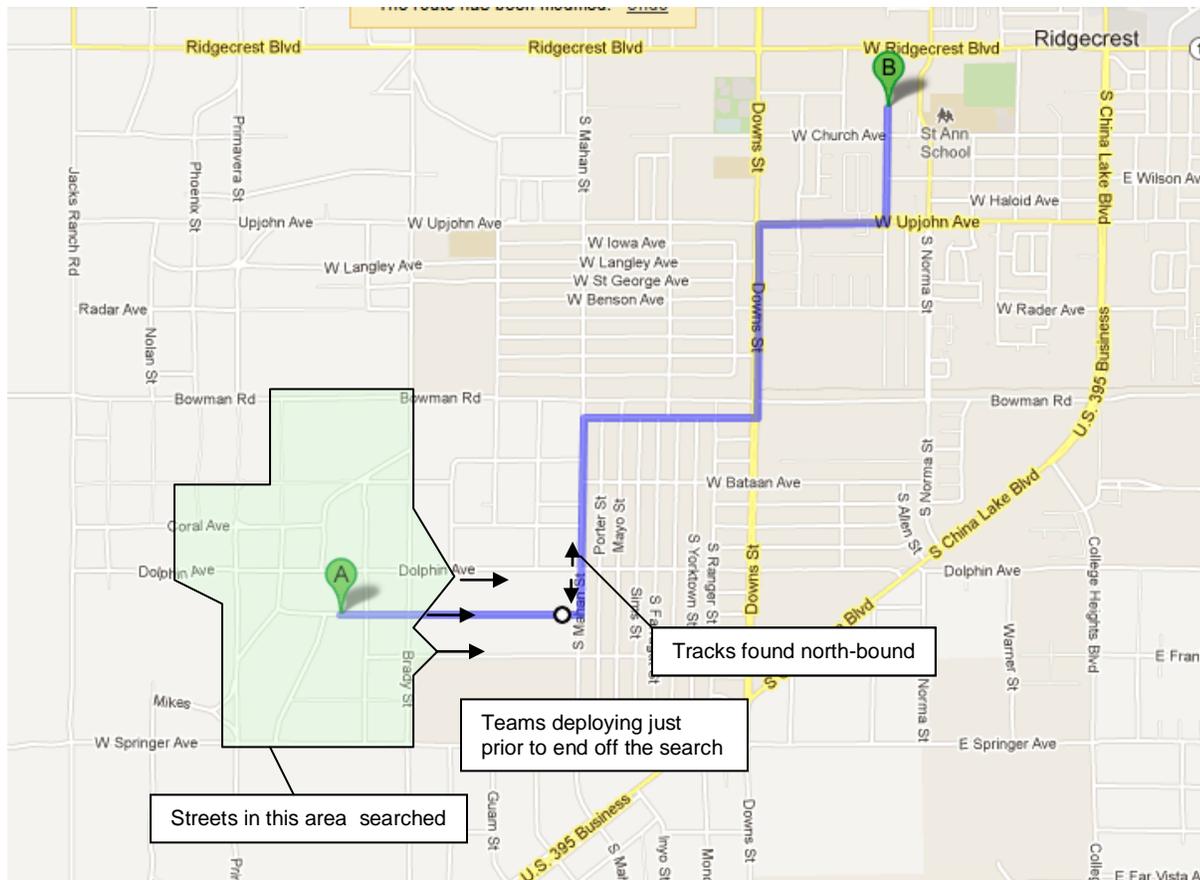
At around 12:30am both teams of Breitenstein/Sakai and Miles/Green had tracks headed west on Dolphin. Miles/Green followed them to a residence where they requested a Deputy to make contact with the inhabitants. I sent Dep. Todesco to investigate but eventually proved to not be our subject. During the next two and half hours

we continued to sweep the area in effort to determine a direction of travel and to investigate areas of interest. Roseman/DeRuitter continued on foot from the western boundary of Primavera and eventually cleared the area south to Springer and back east. Other teams were concentrated north of the PLS from Bowman to Primavera, while Finco/Hinman covered the area south on Brady to Springer.

When Sgt. Baldwin arrived the Caretaker was re-interviewed. Rather than having Alzheimer it was reported that he had suffered a previous head trauma. Later the Subject was then said to have had a brain aneurism. Both the hospital and Ridgecrest Police Department were again contacted to verify that Mr. Muse had not been picked up. The Caretaker did mention a local friend of Mr. Muse where he might be located, but did not know the address or name. At this time, given the cold, windy conditions and the risk to the Subject's safety, the Ready Kern system was initialized, using a 5 mile radius from the PLS. This system contacts (via phone and/or e-mail), those who have subscribed, to alert them of community emergencies.

With no further tracks found to the north, west or south, I began moving teams to cover the eastern side expanding the search areas to Mahan. At 3:15am the subject's tracks were found north bound on Mahan at the intersection with Dolphin. We were about to send teams to "jump-track" when a call came via the Ready Kern system that the Subject may have been located. All teams were told to standby. Confirmation came at 3:40am when Deputies located the Mr. Muse safe at a friend's house on Sunset, 2.5 miles north and east of the last tracks found. Teams returned, were debriefed and dismissed by 4:00am.

In the days following this Operation, many complaints were made about the use of the Ready Kern system by local residents (especially after multiple calls were inexplicably placed). However, these calls led to a family member of Mr. Muse's friend identifying and alerting us to his location.



# GROUP BUSINESS

## — YEAR END COMMITTEE REPORTS 2011 —

### 2011 Operations Summary

We had 21 operations in 2011. Of these, five Alerts/Mobilizations/Transits occurred where we were not fielded. We were involved in 9 searches and 7 rescues.

Alert	Mobilization	Transit	Search	Rescue
2	1	2	9	7

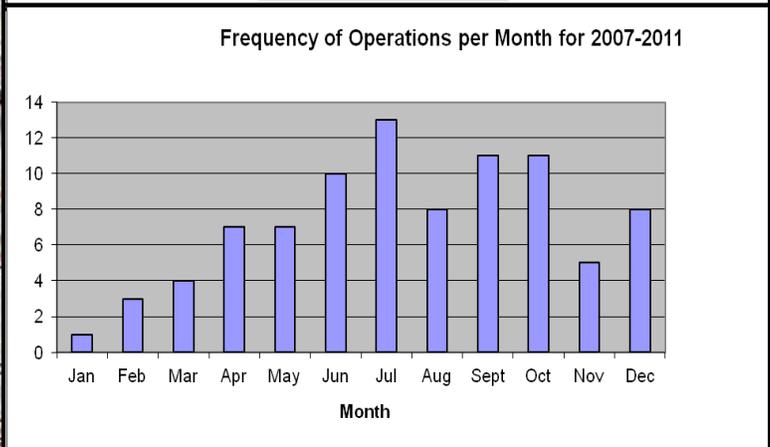
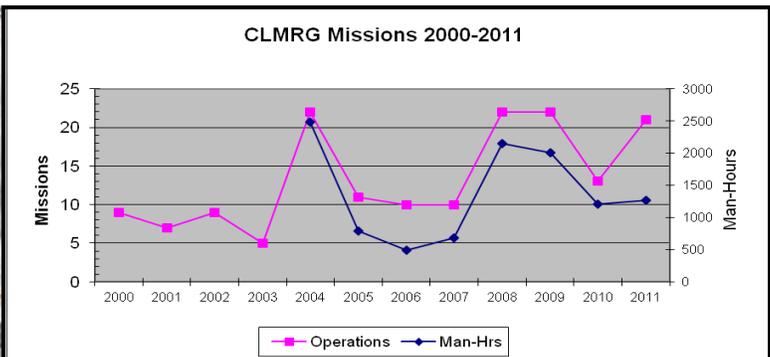
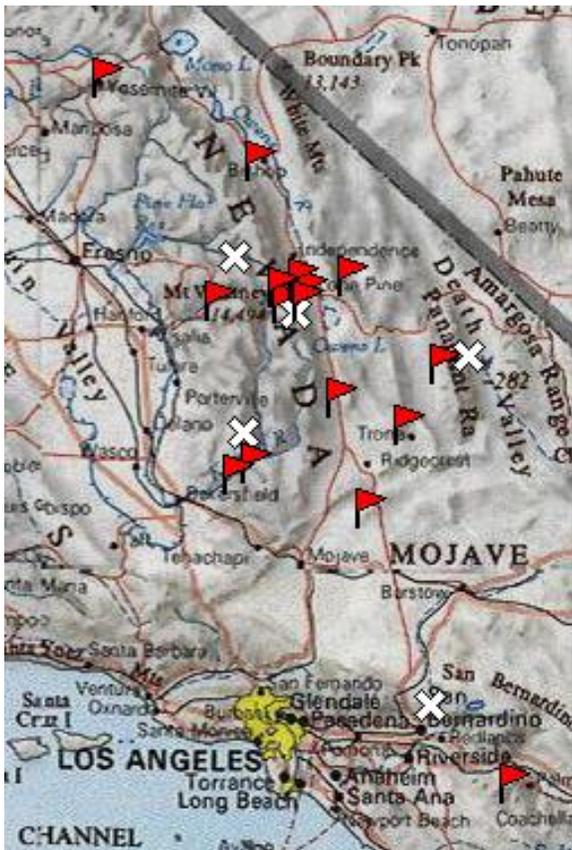
Seventeen of our Operations were outside of Kern County. Inyo County requested us the most, 12 times.

Kern	Inyo	Yosemite NP	SEKI NP	San Bernardino	Riverside
4	12	1	2	1	1

Breaking down the Operations by month shows the last half of the year saw more activity, with September being our busiest.

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	0	0	1	3	2	2	4	3	2	3

We expended 1264 man-hours during these Operations and logged 6378 vehicle miles. We averaged 5 members committing per call-out, with the Rescue at Fossil Falls and Search in the Buttermilk area seeing the largest turn-out of 9 members for each. Below is a summary of all the Operations this year as well as a map with locations (X's denote non-fielded alerts, mobilizations, or transits). Also below is a graph with the trend over the past 11 years and monthly frequency for the last 4 years.



Number	Date	Type	Location / Agency Request / Description
2011-01	21-Feb	SEARCH RESCUE	SAN JACINTO, RIVERSIDE CO. Rescued San Jacinto skier
2011-02	26-May	RESCUE	FOSSIL FALLS, INYO CO. Technical Rescue of fallen subject.
2011-03	9-Jun	ALERT	TELESCOPE PEAK, INYO CO. Search for overdue hiker from Badwater to Telescope
2011-04	19-21 Jun	SEARCH	YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. Search for hiker lost above Yosemite falls.
2011-05	26-Jun	TRANSIT	SUNDAY PEAK, KERN & TULARE COUNTIES. Search for overdue hikers of Sunday Peak.
2011-06	18-Jul	SEARCH	SALINE VALLEY, INYO CO. Search for overdue hiker, canyoneering above Saline Valley
2011-07	29-30 Jul	SEARCH RESCUE	WHITNEY TRAIL, INYO CO. Rescue of hypothermic subject after severe storm and flooding on Mt. Whitney trail, Trail Camp
2011-08	3-Aug	ALERT	KINGS CANYON NP. Search for overdue hiker.
2011-09	14-Aug	SEARCH	OAK FLAT, KERN COUNTY. Search for overdue hikers, Oak Flat lower Kern
2011-10	10-Sep	TRANSIT	COTTONWOOD PASS, INYO CO. Cottonwood Pass carryout of subject thrown from a horse
2011-11	13-Sep	MOBILIZATION	TWIN PEAKS, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY. Search for autistic child near Lake Arrowhead
2011-12	17-Sep	RESCUE	WHITNEY TRAIL, LONE PINE LAKE, INYO CO. Rescue of injured hiker on Mt. Whitney trail, Lone Pine Lake
2011-13	30 Sep - 02 Oct	SEARCH	SEKI NP. Search for overdue hiker Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park
2011-14	5-6 Oct	SEARCH RESCUE	WHITNEY TRAIL, MIRROR LAKE, INYO CO. Rescue of injured subject on Mt. Whitney trail, Mirror Lake
2011-15	15-16 Oct	RESCUE	LONE PINE PEAK, N. RIDGE, INYO CO. Rescue of fallen climber on N. ridge of Lone Pine Peak
2011-16	29-Oct	SEARCH	BUTTERMILK, INYO CO. Search for missing camper in Buttermilk region west of Bishop
2011-17	11-Nov	SEARCH	DEATH VALLEY, INYO CO. Search for overdue hikers on Telescope Peak
2011-18	21-Nov	SEARCH	WHITNEY TRAIL, TRAIL CAMP, INYO CO. Search for overdue hikers on Mt. Whitney trail
2011-19	3-Dec	RESCUE	HOMEWOOD CANYON, INYO CO. Rescue of injured hunter north of Homewood Canyon
2011-20	10-Dec	SEARCH	KERN RIVER, KERN CO. Kern River remains search
2011-21	22-Dec	SEARCH	RANDBURG, KERN CO. Search for ATV riders in Randsburg area

**Equipment Committee (Werner Hueber):**

Stretcher: We inventoried all of the technical gear bags.

Explorer: We continue to perform the required maintenance and repairs: SMOG inspection, four new tires, repair of the front windows (replaced regulators), replacement of the ignition switch, and replacement of rear right axle boot. The Sheriff's Department provides the funding and pays for the gas when we use the vehicle for operations and formal training. This is a very valuable asset for the Group.

Ropes: We updated the rope inventory. We retired the summer class ropes which were too rigid to get through an ATC (rappel device), and we bought three Mammut Vertex 10.0 mm 60 m ropes so we now have 16 ropes for the class. Some of the retired ropes were cut up for practicing knots in the summer class. We bought a rope marking kit and marked the ropes and prepared an updated rope log.

**First Aid Committee (Linda Finco):**

The group continues with our new series of trainings in addition to our annual CPR and First Aid training. The trainings focus on specialized equipment and wilderness first aid issues. Topics covered in 2011 included use of the ZEE for back injuries, heat related illnesses, shock, wound care, splinting and spine and back injuries. All members completed the American Red Cross CPR and Community First Aid training or an equivalent. We are still looking at updating our oxygen equipment and are awaiting a grant to make the purchase.

(As of this printing we did receive the \$1000 grant from The McGraw-Hill Companies and have purchased our new oxygen equipment).

**Public Education Committee (Linda Finco):**

Members of CLMRG made over 25 public education presentations in 2011 putting in over 715 hours of community service. We participated in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Ridgecrest Police Department's "block party" on April 23rd, and the Family Fun Fair sponsored by the United Way on September 24th. At the fair we passed out Hug-A-Tree kits (trash bags and whistles) and information about the program. This year we presented the National Park Service's, Lost but Found, Safe and Sound program to our local elementary schools and reached over 2000 students. We also provided first aid, navigation and rope skills (rappelling) to local Boy Scout troops as part of their programs. For the Girl Scouts we participated in the Mojave Primitive Encampment (MPE). CLMRG presented a desert survival lecture to the local Boys and Girls Club and we supported the VX-31 Safety Stand down. And finally CLMRG again presented our 7-week Basic Mountaineering and Mountaineering Class this summer (details provided in a separate summary report). We received \$4663.09 in donations from individuals, the CFC and United Way.

**Emergency Services Committee (Janet Westbrook):**

We attended most of the monthly meetings in 2011. We occasionally reported on our more interesting rescues. The city knows our capabilities should there be a problem in Ridgecrest.

**Summer Class Committee (Dave Doerr):**

The China Lake Mountain Rescue Group (CLMRG) has taught the summer Mountaineering and Mountaineering Safety class for over 50 years. The three most important reasons for doing so are: (1) to help others to discover the joys of the mountain experience, here where the mountains are so available to us; (2) to help those who do enjoy the mountains to do so safely, bolstered by 50 years of lessons learned doing search and rescue in these mountains; and (3) to find people who may be interested in joining the CLMRG. The course consists of 7 evenings of lectures (on Tuesdays) and 7 evenings of practical applications of the lecture material (on Wednesdays), and two Sierra mountain climbing trips (one day trip and one overnight). The Wednesday sessions are: conditioning hike up one the summits below Five Fingers, bouldering at Wagon Wheel, navigation and belaying practice also at Wagon Wheel, three sessions of rock climbing (top rope) at Robber's Roost, and rappelling at Fossil Falls. The Wednesday sessions are followed by food, drink, and recaps of the days events at

the Pizza Factory (since the untimely closing of Nickoletti's). After the last Wednesday session at Robber's Roost, a party is put on for the instructors, students, and guests by the students.

This year's class started with 41 students on the roster and several others on the waiting list. We ended with 30 students; 17 receiving graduation certificates and 13 "survivor" certificates. The day climbs were Trail Peak (4 students and 2 group members), Cirque Peak (6 students and 5 members), and Dragon Peak (7 students and 5 members) which ended up diverting to Kearsarge Peak due to snow conditions. The overnight trips were Rixford/Gould Peak (2 members and 1 student) and Snow Crown (3 members and 8 students), both out of Onion Valley. Many thanks to students Vickie Shehan and Randy Drobny for organizing all the great food for the summer class party.

Many thanks for the excellent support to those that helped and to the awesome work of Summer Class Committee: Eileen Loughran, Nathan Simons, Carol Burge, Al Green, and Dave Miles. Group support for the class was excellent in quality, though less in quantity than previous years. Of those that usually help with the class, it seemed that many more were out of town than usual for various reasons. I'm not sure if this is an anomaly or a trend, but the lack of orange shirts at the Wednesday practical sessions was/is serious enough to consider limiting the class size.

### Training Committee (Eileen Loughran):

2011 Training Report

Committee members: Eileen Loughran (Chair); Dave Miles; Debbie Breitenstein; Bill Stratton, & Daryl Hinman

During the course of 2011, the group trained a total of 5,300 hrs and traveled 18,467 miles in their own vehicles. The group conducted a total of 14 first aid classes, 38 skill training sessions; and 72 outings in the field (124 events).

The table below shows the hours and mileage by month and category.

						Totals by month:		
	First Aid	Skill	Skill Mileage	Field	Field Mileage	Trng Hrs	Mileage	Explorer Mileage
Jan	6	0	0	299	716	305	716	0
Feb	10	226	510	194	522	430	1032	0
Mar	0	272	628	234	845	506	1473	180
Apr	27	48	70	357	1686	432	1756	70
May	19	0	0	343	1492	362	1492	0
Jun	0	121	540	385	540	506	1080	80
Jul	16	134	80	335.5	1210	485.5	1290	40
Aug	0	126.5	570	500	1983	626.5	2553	264
Sept	14	54	50	791	2714	859	2764	0
Oct	20.5	36	280	432.5	2485	489	2765	0
Nov	33	37	39	178	1202	248	1241	0
Dec	10	7	0	34	305	51	305	0
	<b>155.5</b>	<b>1061.5</b>	<b>2767</b>	<b>4083</b>	<b>15700</b>	<b>5300</b>	<b>18467</b>	<b>634</b>

September (859 hrs) had the highest overall training totals followed closely by August (626.5 hrs), March and June (506 hrs each). The biggest months for skill training were March (272 hrs) followed respectively by February (226 hrs) and July (134 hrs).

## **SHERIFF'S APPRECIATION DINNER**

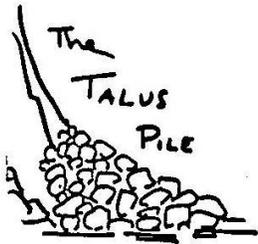
By Dave Miles, Team Captain

Group members Mike Myers, Dan Bishop, Linda Finco, Tom Sakai, Daryl Hinman, Bob Rockwell, Sheila Rockwell, Janet Westbrook, Mary Schmierer, Loren Castro, Eileen Loughran, Nathan Simons, and Bill Stratton, and family and friends attended the annual Search and Rescue (SAR) Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Hodel's Restaurant in Bakersfield on Saturday, 24 March 2012.

Dan Bishop was named the team's top contributor for 2011 for his leadership both on operations and in organizing our Mountain Rescue Association accreditation testing the last few years. Seventeen members were recognized by the Kern County Sheriff and Kern County Board of Supervisors for their years of volunteer service. Members recognized were: Bill Stratton (5 years), Dan Bishop, Dave Miles and Mike Franklin (10 years), Gina Niesen (15 years), Mike Myers, Debbie Breitenstein and Terry Mitchell (20 years), Linda Finco, Tom Sakai, Mary Schmierer and Bob Huey (30 years), Daryl Hinman (35 years), Sheila Rockwell (40 years), Janet Westbrook (45 years) and Al Green (50 years). Loren Castro was recognized for his retirement after 28 years of service. Congratulations to all for their continuing service as volunteers for the Kern County Sheriff Search and Rescue.



CLMRG Members and their awards (l to r): Miles, Castro, Finco, S.Rockwell, Sakai, Bishop, Myers, Hinman, Schmierer, Westbrook, Stratton



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

Address Correction Requested

