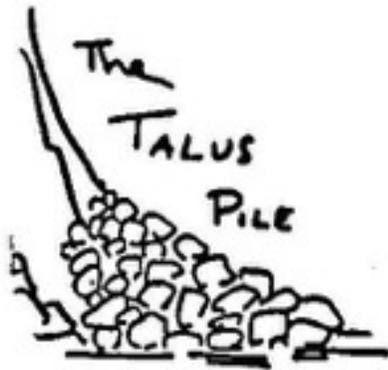


NUMBER 161

March 2017



**CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP**

P. O. BOX 2037  
RIDGECREST CA 93556

**TRAINING SCHEDULE**

Date	Training	Leader
Apr 1	Desert Peak	Niesen
Apr 1	SAR Dinner	Finco
Apr 5	Tech Skills Night	TBD
Apr 10	Meeting	Cash
Apr 12	Girl Scout Tyrollean	Loughran
Apr 22-23	Olancha Peak	Huey
May 8	Meeting	TBD

**GROUP BUSINESS**

**Officers:** *CONGRATULATIONS* to our 2017 Officers elected at the December 2016 meeting!

President: Mike Derkey  
Vice President: Luke Swanson  
Secretary: Gina Niesen/Debbie Breitenstein  
Treasurer: Werner Hueber  
MRA Rep: Nathan Simons

**SCREE**

Check out our web page at [clmrg.org](http://clmrg.org).

Check out the California Region's web page at [crmra.org](http://crmra.org).



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

**Committees:** With the new year we have some new and some returning committee chairs:

ASTM: Dennis Burge  
Emergency Services: Dave Miles  
Equipment: Nathan Simons  
First Aid: Gina Niesen  
Public Education: Phil Cash  
Sheriff: Linda Finco  
Stretcher: Mike Derkey  
Training: Sean Litton  
Web Page: Janet Westbrook

**MRA Search Accreditation Stoddard Valley - San Bernardino County):**

CLMRG was re-certified by the CalMRA in Search and Tracking. Members participating were Finco, Myers, Roseman, Miles, Swanson, Huey, Cash, Derkey, Doerr, Litton, Sakai, Simons, Stephenson, Stratton, Warren, Breitenstein, Loughran, Rempel and David Jensen (applicant). Thanks to all members who trained and assisted in the training in preparation for this test. Another job well done. A full report will be included in the next Talus Pile.

**Public Education:**

**- Talus Pile:**

We've been a little behind in our reporting, but plan to publish 3-4 newsletters this year. If you currently receive a paper copy of the Talus Pile, please consider letting us send you an electronic copy via email instead. Just send an email to [publiced@clmrg.org](mailto:publiced@clmrg.org) and let us know. As an all-volunteer, non-profit even little steps help us keep expenses low. Thank you!

**- Summer Mountaineering Class:**

Registration starts May 1st for CLMRG's annual Basic Mountaineering & Mountaineering Safety class. If you know anyone that might be interested in learning about Mountaineering and practicing skills, send them to our website ([www.clmrg.org](http://www.clmrg.org)) to learn more. This year's class will run June 13th through August 2nd

## OPERATION REPORTS 2016

**Operation 2016-06**

4 June 2016, TRANSIT, Kernville, Kern County (Operation Leader - Dave Miles)

I (Dave Miles) received a text at 1330 on June 4<sup>th</sup> from Brian Baskin with Kern Valley SAR. He was looking for help from swift water rescuers. They had 3 rescues the day before and needed more people to be on standby in the area. Sean Litton and I left at 1600 and arrived at the Kernville Park at 1715. No further rescue calls came that day so we had dinner and returned to the hut at 2230.

**Operation 2016-07**

24 June 2016, TRANSIT, Kernville, Kern County (Operation Leader - Luke Swanson)

At 0800 Sgt. Bittle from the Kern County Sheriff's Office contacted CLMRG requesting assistance in the possible evacuation of residents affected by the Erskine fire in the Lake Isabella area. Carol Burge called the roster looking for a leader for the operation. CLMRG members Luke Swanson, Nathan Simons, Phil Cash, Mike Derkey, Sean Litton and Sean McNamara met at the hut at 1300. CLMRG left the hut and drove to the base camp which was set up at Camp 9 just outside of Kernville.

CLMRG arrived at Camp 9 at 1447 and awaited instructions for fielding. Due to the nature of the fire, the team was held in reserve while fire crews assessed the situation to make sure it was safe for search and rescue to enter the area to assist in the evacuation of people. CLMRG waited until 1854 before being released for the day by Sgt. Bittle. We stopped for dinner in Kernville before heading back to Ridgecrest. We secured at the hut at 2214.

**Operation 2016-08**

24 June 2016, ALERT, Kernville, Kern County (Operation Leader - Tom Roseman)

At 1700 on 24 June, I (Tom Roseman) received a call from Carol Burge looking for an operation leader for a 2nd day for the Erskine fire. Carol and Sheila Rockwell called the roster and the following members committed: Dan Bishop, Luke Swanson, Nathan Simons, Sean Litton, Jeff Green, and Phil Cash. Later that evening I received a text stating that we were no longer required to assist.

**Operation 2016-09, OES #2016-LAW-25290**

20-21 July 2016, SEARCH, Mt Whitney, Inyo County (Operation Leader - Linda Finco)

I (Linda Finco) received a call from Deputy Nance with the Kern County Sheriff's Office at 2235 on Wednesday, 20 July. KCSO received a request from Inyo County for assistance in a search for a missing hiker in the Mt. Whitney region. Terry Mitchell coordinated the callout and Tom Roseman, Nathan Simons and Bill Stephenson committed to the operation. We met at the hut at 0430 on Thursday, 21 July. We met Inyo County SAR and Cpl. Vaughn at the airport around 0620. The search was for "Bum" John Lee, a 68 year old man from Mentone, CA. Mr. Lee was leading a group of friends up the Mountaineer's Route on Mt. Whitney. The group had gotten off route a few times throughout the day and it was initially reported that they bivied at the notch on the Mountaineer's Route. The next morning everyone in the group except for Mr. Lee wanted to turn around. The others watched Mr. Lee continue on up. They saw him drop off his pack on a rock and continued towards the summit. The rest of the group descended to Iceberg Lake and with help from other hikers descended to the trail head. When Mr. Lee did not return later that day, the group reported him overdue. CHP H-80 would be used to insert teams into the field for the search.

China Lake was teamed up with Julia from Inyo SAR and we were flown in to Iceberg Lake around 0900. Our assignment was to search up the mountaineer's route and the Whitney/Russell Col and the area around Iceberg Lake. Julia and Nathan ascended the mountaineer's route, while Tom, Bill and I searched the col and lake area. Other teams were searching areas lower in the drainage and around Upper Boy Scout Lake. All teams started heading down around 1400 and we were all back to the trailhead at 1800. We arrived back to the airport for a debrief. No clues had been found by the searchers, although the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Service Helo did spot a backpack near the Whitney /Russell Col on the Park side. Also after more interviews with the other members of the party, it was determined that the group actually bivied somewhere around the Whitney/Russell Col area. Inyo County requested additional support from the MRA to continue the search on Friday. The sheriff treated us to dinner and then we headed back to Ridgecrest at 2045. We secured at the hut at 2230. CLMRG was not able to provide a team for the search on Friday.

**Operation 2016-10, OES # 2016-LAW-25490**

22-23 July 2016, SEARCH, Maggie Lake, Tulare County (Operation Leader - Linda Finco)

I (Linda Finco) received a text message from Dep. Nance with the Kern County Sheriff's Office at 1304 on Friday, 22 July. KCSO received a request from OES for assistance in a search for a missing hiker in the Maggie Lake area of Tulare County. Terry Mitchell coordinated the callout and Elaine Riendeau assisted with the telephoning. After discussions with Dave Miles, it was decided we could not support the search operation and provide enough CLMRG members for the summer class overnight trips scheduled for the weekend. Therefore we cancelled the overnight trips. Dave Miles, Nathan Simons, Gina Niesen, David Doerr, and Bill Stephenson committed to the search.

That evening I received an email from Dep. Nance confirming the search was still on for the next day. We were requested to arrive at the Springville Inn in Springville at 0700. The search was for Frank Wolsko, 56, from Bakersfield, CA. Mr. Wolsko was reported missing on Tuesday, 19 July. At the time it was assumed he had left for a day hike on Saturday, 16 July. Hikers found his dog at the Clicks Creek trailhead on Monday, 18 July and brought the dog to a vet in Porterville. The dog had a chip that showed Mr. Wolsko was the owner. It was verified that Mr. Wolsko's vehicle was still parked at the Clicks Creek trailhead. Tulare County had been searching the intended route and trails in the area and now the search area was expanding.

We met at the hut at 0400 on Saturday, 23 July. We arrived at the Springville Inn a little after 7 am just as the Command Post was moving up to Camp Nelson. During the drive up the road, a Tulare County sheriff pulled ahead and stopped the convoy to inform us that Mr. Wolsko had just called. He hiked out to a residence. This was at 0730. Later it was reported on the Tulare County Sheriff's Facebook page that Mr. Wolsko had actually left for the day hike on Wednesday, July 13. Before setting out, Mr. Wolsko altered his original planned route and quickly became lost. On Thursday, July 14, Mr. Wolsko lost contact with his dog, Cassie. After wandering for 10 days, Mr. Wolsko walked out to a residence in the Cedar Slope area. Mr. Wolsko was taken to the hospital and treated for dehydration and exposure. We arrived back in Ridgecrest and secured at the hut at 1512.

**Operation 2016-11, OES # 2016-LAW-25290**

23-24 July 2016, RECOVERY, Mt. Whitney, Inyo County (Operations Leader - Dave Miles)

On the way home from our search in Tulare County on Saturday, 23 July, we received a call from Deputy Josh Nance. Inyo County was requesting additional searchers for the continuing search for John Lee on Mt. Whitney. The request was to have teams available for Sunday, 24 July. I (Dave Miles) agreed to lead the operation and Terry Mitchell coordinated the callout. Inyo County Sheriff wanted us at the Lone Pine airport at 0800 on Sunday, so we met at the hut at 0630. Nathan Simons and Phil Cash committed to the operation.

We arrived at the Lone Pine airport at 0745 and all the teams got inserted to their search locations by a Chinook helicopter. Our search area was the area between Guitar Lake and Hitchcock Lakes. We started our search at 1120. The subject was found at 1345 on the slope east of Guitar Lake by one of the three helicopters helping with the search. Since it was near our search area, we went to help with the recovery. We waited with several other teams to assist in carrying the litter down the talus slope. Since the subject was located in Sequoia/Kings Canyon (SEKI) National Park, two park rangers were sent to document and secure the scene. All teams were told to return to the landing zone (LZ) to be extracted. Teams were flown back to the Lone Pine airport by the Chinook at 1600. After the debrief, we returned home and secured at the hut at 1830.

#### **Operation 2016-12**

31 July 2016, RESCUE, Kern County (Operation Leader - Linda Finco)

I (Linda Finco) received a call from Sgt. Bittle with the Kern County Sheriff's Office at 2017 on Sunday, 31 July. KCSO received a call from a relative stating their family member had alerted their SPOT (personal tracking and emergency beacon). The mother had dropped her 35 year old son, Drew Ryan, at Walker's Pass Sunday morning to begin a 30 day hike on the PCT. Temperatures during the day reached over 100 degrees. The mother stated her son had duct tape over the emergency button to prevent accidental activation, so she believed it to be a real distress call. I contacted Terry Mitchell to coordinate a callout and used Calling Post to give team members a heads up and possibly get more members for an advance team. Dave Miles, Mike Franklin, Daryl Hinman and Sean Litton were the first to respond, so they became the advance team with a meet time at the hut of 2100. I called Sgt. Bittle and told him we had an advance team on the road. Sgt. Bittle also stated he requested a helo to help in the rescue. Terry continued the callout with the help of Carol Burge. Dave Doerr, Phil Cash and Debbie Breitenstein all committed for the follow on team. We met at the hut at 2130 and loaded up gear for a base camp and carry out (stretcher/wheel/ropes). We met up with Sgt. Bittle near the Chimney Peak Road turnoff. The Kern County helicopter was able to locate and rescue Mr. Ryan. He complained of dehydration and exhaustion so was taken to a local hospital. We waited until the advance team met back with us. On their approach they heard the helicopter and got the radio message that Mr. Ryan had been rescued. We returned to Ridgecrest and secured at the hut.

#### **Operation 2016-13, OES # 2016-LAW-25453**

4-5 August, 2016, ALERT, Alpine County (Operation Leader - Linda Finco)

I (Linda Finco) received a text from Sgt. Bittle with the Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) at 1500 on August 4th. KCSO received a mutual aid request from Alpine County to assist in an ongoing search for 71 year old Rosalyn Saxenmeier. Rosalyn was last seen walking away from her campsite at 1400 on Thursday, 28 July. The Alpine County sheriff was requesting assistance for one last effort on Saturday and Sunday, 6-7 August. Carol Burge coordinated the callout. We were still unable field a team.

Update: Alpine County had over 150 SAR personnel on Saturday, and over 250 SAR personnel from 27 different agencies on Sunday. Rosalyn has still not been found. Alpine County Sheriff now considers this a missing persons case.

#### **Operation 2016-14, OES# 2016-LAW-27062**

4 October 2016, ALERT, Tuolumne County (Operation Leader - Tom Roseman)

On Tuesday, 4 October, KCSO Sgt. McMinn contacted Linda Finco about an OES request to assist in a search in Tuolumne County. Linda was out of town, so she contacted Dave Miles to initiate the request for an operations leader. I (Tom Roseman) accepted the operation. I called Sgt. McMinn to get the details of the request. Searchers were needed to look for an overdue fisherman. Terry Mitchell coordinated the callout, but did not get any commitments. We were unable to field a team for the operation.

#### **Operation 2016-15**

8-9 October 2016, RESCUE, Last Chance Canyon, Kern County (Operation Leader - Dave Miles)

I (Dave Miles) received a call from Linda Finco at 2100 on Saturday, 8 October 2016. The Kern County Sheriff received a call from a family stuck after visiting Burro Schmidt Tunnel and they did not know their current location. I got the family's cell number and called them and instructed them on how to get the GPS location from the Compass App on his iPhone. I saw that they were in Last Chance Canyon and told him to stay in the truck with his family and we would be there in a few hours. Terry Mitchell coordinated the callout with Janet Westbrook helping with the calls. Al Green, Mike Franklin, Sean Litton, Gina Niesen, Bill Stephenson, and Phil Cash committed to the operation.

We met at the hut at 2200 and drove to Garlock and Last Chance Canyon Road. We met Sgt. Bittle there at 2300. We decided to send Green and Franklin in Al's Jeep and the rest in our Suburban up Last Chance Canyon. I stayed at Garlock road with Sgt. Bittle and we soon lost radio communications. Around 0040 in the morning we got a brief radio call from Sean that they had found the family and would be coming out in the other direction towards Highway 14.

Sgt. Bittle and I drove around to where EP15 meets Highway 14. Our team had to pull their 2WD truck out several times and slowly made their way out. We returned to the hut and secured at 0500.

**Operation 2016-16, OES# 2016-LAW-27516**

18 October 2016, RECOVERY, Mt Whitney, Inyo County (Operation Leader - Dave Miles)

I (Dave Miles) received a call from Sgt. Bittle at 0830 on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Inyo County was requesting assistance for a rescue on the Mt. Whitney trail. It was reported that 36 year old Mike Hay was hiking down the Mt. Whitney with a female hiking partner, Angie, when they got lost. They ended up on a ledge and she heard him fall but could not see nor hear him. While trying to find him she found the trail again and made her way down to Outpost Camp where she found other hikers and they set off their SPOT SOS at 0400. The owner of the SPOT then hiked to the trailhead to be the reporting party (RP).

Janet Westbrook coordinated the callout. Nathan Simons, Tom Sakai, Bill Stratton, Mike Franklin and Bill Stephenson committed to the operation. We met at the hut at 0930 and arrived at the Lone Pine airport at 1045. The CHP helicopter had already dropped off a member of the Inyo SAR team to make contact with Angie at Outpost Camp. The helicopter then took Mike Franklin and Tom Sakai in to start searching. Michael was found deceased at the base of a cliff southwest of Mirror Lake. I then sent Nathan Simons and Bill Stephenson in at 1230 with the litter and a body bag to package the body for transport. The helicopter returned with the subject to Lone Pine airport and then to Bishop for the coroner. We got back to the hut around 1900.

**Operation 2016-17, OES# 2016-LAW-27548**

18-19 October 2016, SEARCH, Bishop Pass, Inyo County (Operation Leader – Luke Swanson)

CLMRG received a request for assistance from Inyo County Sheriff, Deputy Nate Derr on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 1730 for a search of a missing man in the area of Bishop Pass. Janet Westbrook coordinated the callout. I (Luke Swanson) took the operation and Tom Roseman and Nathan Simons committed to the search for the next day.

The search was for 74 year old Robert “Bob” Woodie who was reported missing by his wife. His wife thought he was in the Lone Pine area, however he had some type of SPOT device (personal locator beacon), from which Deputy Derr was able to determine that an OK message was sent on Saturday, 15 October from a location in Dusy Basin. The subject’s car was located at the South Lake trailhead. The subject was believed to have been fishing and was due out on Sunday, 16 October. A storm occurred on Sunday, reportedly resulting in high winds and some snow. No further activity or location was available from the SPOT device.

CLMRG met at the hut at 0530 on Wednesday, 19 October and arrived at the Bishop airport at 0800 as planned. The team was sent to clear areas in the vicinity of Bishop Pass trail within Inyo County (basically staying east of Bishop Pass). The Inyo team selected several areas where hikers could get lost or get off the trail. Our team started hiking at 0905 at the South Lake trailhead and arrived at the first search area within 30 minutes. The three member team fanned out to search the designated area, while remaining in sight of each other. This pattern was continued until all areas were searched. CLMRG joined Laura, from the Inyo team, at Bull Lake after completing our search. The combined four person team returned down the trail to the trail head, taking an alternate use trail identified by Laura to cover additional area. No signs of the subject were discovered. Many sets of footprints in the snow were encountered along use trails between lakes as the area is a popular hiking and fishing area.

CLMRG drove back to the Bishop airport from the trail head at around 1600 to debrief and provide the GPS tracks to the Command Post. The Sequoia Kings Canyon Park Service led the search on the Park side, which included Dusy Basin. The Park Service did not want additional resources for the following day (Thursday), but suggested a possible call out for Friday or Saturday. CLMRG returned to the hut and the operation was secured at 2100.

**Operation 2016-18, OES# 2016-LAW-27548**

21-23 October 2016, SEARCH, Bishop Pass, Inyo County Part 2 (Operation Leader - Dan Bishop)

I (Dan Bishop) responded to a call from Inyo County Sheriff requesting assistance to continue the search for Robert Woodie in the Bishop Pass area. The subject’s intended plan and route started on 13 October from South Lake with a plan to hike over Bishop Pass to fish at Barrett Lakes, and then exit back to South Lake on 16 October. An “OK” SPOT transmission signal was received on the 15<sup>th</sup> near Barrett Lakes. Snow and high winds occurred in the area on the 16<sup>th</sup> and he was reported missing by his family the following day.

The callout for CLMRG members was initiated on the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> with Nathan Simons and Bill Stephenson committing. Janet Westbrook acted as coordinator. Leaving the hut at 0430, we met Kern County SAR coordinator, Sgt. Bittle, at the Inyo SAR headquarters at the Bishop Airport. Because the search was in the Kings Canyon National Park, the Park Service was the primary search agency. Our assignment was to be teamed with two Inyo members and led by a Park Service Ranger to search the area up to Thunderbolt Pass from Dusy Basin. It was thought that the subject would use the route from Barrett Lakes to Thunderbolt Pass to Bishop Pass as a possible exit route. Flown in below Bishop Pass via a Park Service helicopter our team of six proceeded to the pass encountering rough terrain, places

drifted in with snow, and large blocky regions with layers of snow filling in between the rocks. Spending the afternoon searching, we returned to bivouac next to the lake north of Isosceles Peak where we met up with two other search teams composed of members from Fresno County and the Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit.

The next morning we combined the three teams to conduct a line search from the base of Thunderbolt Pass to Bishop Pass. By afternoon, nearing Bishop Pass, the weather began to deteriorate as winds began to increase. Our teams were directed to a landing zone on the north end of Dusy Basin where we were extracted by a National Guard Chinook helicopter, landing back at the Bishop airport at 1500. Following the debrief, we returned to the hut at 1730.

### **Operation 2016-19, OES# 2016-LAW-27669**

RESCUE, Mt Whitney, Inyo County (Operation Leader - Dave Miles)

I (Dave Miles) received a call from Sgt. Bittle at 1756 on Sunday, 23 October, 2016. Sgt Bittle had an OES request to assist Inyo County with the rescue of two parties on the Mt. Whitney trail. The first was for a 40 year old man at Trail Camp who was having vision trouble. The second was for three women suffering from the cold at Trail Crest. Both rescues were initiated from an inReach device and the GPS coordinates given via the inReach confirmed the locations of the the subjects. Terry Mitchell coordinated the callout with help from Sheila Rockwell. Luke Swanson, Nathan Simons, Sean McNamara, and Tom Sakai committed to the operation. We met at the hut at 2000.

We arrived at Whitney Portal at 2210 and found a man who had helped Boonyang Philavane (the gentleman with vision problems) get to Trail Camp. He also informed us that another group had left Boonyang a tent for shelter. We also found one of the 3 women suffering from the cold, who had made it to the trailhead, and she told us that her two friends were in that same tent at Trail Camp. She had used her inReach to initiate both rescues. Each CLMRG member had extra gear to warm the subjects since they were all day hikers. I sent Luke and Nathan ahead with the large Bothy bag for additional shelter. We all started hiking up the trail at 2230 in a light rain. Tom spent the night on the Whitney Portal road to provide radio relay. By the time we reached Outpost Camp it was snowing and very high winds above Mirror Lake. Lots of spindrift snow and limited visibility made for a fun night of hiking.

Luke and Nathan arrived at Trail Camp at 0150 and found the 2 women and the one man in the tent at Trail Camp. They also found another male subject (Guillermo) in need of rescue sheltered in the tent. Luke and Nathan provided extra clothes to the 4 hikers sheltered in the crowded tent. They deployed the group Bothy bag and one of the women joined them. Sean and I arrived at 0330 and provided sleeping bags and more clothes to the subjects. We all sheltered for the rest of the night with a few inches of snow accumulation and 40-70 mph winds. I used our inReach to text Sgt. Bittle that all our subjects were ok and we planned to shelter for the night and hike out in the morning. We did not have radio contact with Tom after Outpost Camp so I also had Sgt. Bittle contact Tom. The next morning we got up and started hiking down the trail at 0800. We made very slow progress down the trail and got our last subject to the trailhead at 1430. We were able to text updates via the inReach to Sgt. Bittle and Tom. We secured at the hut at 1700.

### **Operation 2016-20, OES# 2016-LAW-28292**

15-16 Nov 2016, RECOVERY, Mt Whitney, Inyo County (Operation Leader - Dave Miles)

I (Dave Miles) received a call from Terry Mitchell at 2000 on Tuesday, 15 November. Sgt. Bittle received a request from Inyo County to have CLMRG assist with a rescue on the Mountaineer's Route of Mt. Whitney. I contacted Deputy Brian Howard from Inyo County. A party of four had a 37 year old female (Lisa) fall while descending the chute above Iceberg Lake. She fell at 1500 hours and they were able to make a cell phone call to initiate a rescue. She was unconscious but breathing after falling several hundred feet on mixed terrain. There were several attempts to get a helicopter to her that afternoon but the wind prevented it. Due to the cold and wind and lack of extra gear, the other 3 in the hiking group left Lisa and returned to their camp at Upper Boy Scout Lake. Inyo had a hasty team hiking in and requested us at the Lone Pine airport for a 0800 briefing and hopefully an insert by helicopter. Terry Mitchell coordinated the callout and Tom Roseman, Nathan Simons, and Jeff Green committed to the operation. I set 0630 to meet at the hut.

At 2330 I received text messages from Angie who was the survivor from our Operation 2016-16. She stated that her friends had an accident on the Mountaineer's Route and asked if there was anything our group could do to help. I assured her that the Inyo team was hiking in and that they had us lined up to help in the morning. When I awoke at 0530 to get ready, I noticed that I had a text from Deputy Howard at 0215 that the hasty team had found Lisa deceased and that we had a new briefing time of 1100. I sent a group text to Tom, Nathan, and Jeff that our new hut time was 0930.

We arrived at Lone Pine at 1045 and did a hot load onto the CH-47 at 1215 when it arrived. After a wild ride in the wind we arrived at Iceberg Lake (12,600 ft) at 1230. We dropped our packs at the landing zone (LZ) and carried the litter, body bag, 200 ft 9mm rope, and anchor slings 500 vertical feet up the chute to Lisa. At 1320 the CH-47 left for the Lone Pine airport to wait at a lower altitude due to crew altitude-time restrictions. We took some photos to document the scene for the Sheriff and then prepared the litter for lowering. After four 200' lowering pitches we were near

the bottom of the chute and carried and towed the litter over to the LZ. At 14545 we made a radio call to have the CH-47 return to the LZ since we were about 30 minutes from the LZ. They arrived shortly after we reached the LZ and we loaded the litter and returned to the Lone Pine Airport at 1530 where the Coroner and family were waiting. After a debrief we drove back to Ridgecrest and secured at 1745.

**Operation 2016-21**

24 Nov 2016, ALERT, Mt Whitney, Inyo County (Operation Leader - Gina Niesen)

Linda Finco received a text from Sgt. Bittle on the afternoon of 24 November. Inyo County was requesting assistance in a search for an overdue hiker on the Mt. Whitney trail. Linda was out of town eating Thanksgiving dinner with family, so she contacted Terry Mitchell who volunteered to try to find a leader. Gina Niesen took the operation with Tom Sakai and Nathan Simons committing to the search. Shortly after the callout, Linda received an update from Sgt. Bittle stating the man had been found and our assistance was no longer needed. The message was relayed to Terry and the team stood down.

— YEAR END REPORTS for 2016—

**Summary Chart of 2016 Operations:**

Operation	2016 Dates	Type	Leader	Coordinator/ Telephoner	Members	County
2016-01	11-Jan	SEARCH-TECH ASSIST	T.ROSEMAN	S.ROCKWELL	D.MILES, A.GREEN, D.HINMAN, J.-GREEN, S.MCNAMARA, D.BISHOP, M.DERKEY, N.SIMONS, T.SAKAI	KERN
2016-02	17-18 Jan	RESCUE	L.FINCO	T.MITCHELL/ C.BURGE	D.MILES, A.GREEN, B.HUEY, B.S-TRATTON, P.DERUITER, S.MCNAMARA, S.LITTON, T.SAKAI	KERN
2016-03	18-19 Jan	RESCUE	L.FINCO	T.MITCHELL/ C.BURGE	D.MILES, B.HUEY, T.SAKAI, B.STRATTON, L.SWANSON, S.LITTON, M.DERKEY, T.ROSEMAN, A.GREEN, M.FRANKLIN	KERN
2016-04	17-Feb	TRANSIT	L.FINCO	C.BURGE/ S.ROCKWELL	D.MILES, T.SAKAI, T.ROSEMAN, S.LITTON, N.SIMONS	KERN
2016-05	1-Jun	TRANSIT	L.SWANSON	M.SCHMIERER/ L.FINCO	D.BISHOP, A.GREEN	SAN BERNARDINO
2016-06	4-Jun	TRANSIT-DIVE ASSIST	D.MILES		S.LITTON	KERN
2016-07	24-Jun	TRANSIT	L.SWANSON	C.BURGE	N.SIMONS, M.DERKEY, S.LITTON, S.MCNAMARA, P.CASH	KERN
2016-08	24-Jun	ALERT	T.ROSEMAN	C.BURGE/ S.ROCKWELL	L.SWANSON, D.BISHOP, N.SIMONS, S.LITTON, J.GREEN, P.CASH	KERN
2016-09	20-21 Jul	SEARCH	L.FINCO	T.MITCHELL/ S.ROCKWELL	T.ROSEMAN, N.SIMONS, B.STEPHENSON	INYO
2016-10	22-23 Jul	TRANSIT	L.FINCO	T.MITCHELL/ E.RIENDEAU	D.MILES, N.SIMONS, G.NIESEN, D.-DOERR, B.STEPHENSON	TULARE
2016-11	23-24 Jul	SEARCH/ RECOVERY	D.MILES	T.MITCHELL	N.SIMONS, P.CASH	INYO
2016-12	31-Jul	RESCUE	L.FINCO	T.MITCHELL/ C.BURGE	D.MILES, D.HINMAN, M.FRANKLIN, S.LITTON, D.DOERR, S.NCNAMARA, P.CASH, D.BREITENSTEIN	KERN

Operation	2016 Dates	Type	Leader	Coordinator/ Telephoner	Members	County
2016-13	4-5 Aug	ALERT	L.FINCO	C.BURGE	T.SAKAI	ALPINE
2016-14	4-Oct	ALERT	T.ROSEMAN	T.MITCHELL/ T.ROSEMAN	M.MYERS	TUOLUMNE
2016-15	8-9 Oct	RESCUE	D.MILES	T.MITCHELL/ J.WESTBROOK	A.GREEN, M.FRANKLIN, S.LITTON, G.NIESEN, B.STEPHENSON, P.CASH	INYO
2016-16	18-Oct	RESCUE/ RECOVERY	D.MILES	J.WESTBROOK	N.SIMONS, M.FRANKLIN, T.SAKAI, B.STRATTON, B.STEPHENSON	INYO
2016-17	18-19 Oct	SEARCH	L.SWANSON	J.WESTBROOK	T.ROSEMAN, N.SIMONS	INYO
2016-18	21-23 Oct	SEARCH	D.BISHOP	J.WESTBROOK	B.STEPHENSON, N.SIMONS	INYO
2016-19	23-24 Oct	RESCUE	D.MILES	T.MITCHELL/ S.ROCKWELL	L.SWANSON, N.SIMONS, S.MCNAMA- RA	INYO
2016-20	15-16 Nov	RECOVERY	D.MILES	T.MITCHELL	T.ROSEMAN, N.SIMONS, J.GREEN	INYO
2016-21	24-Nov	ALERT	G.NIESEN	T.MITCHELL	T.SAKAI, N. SIMON	INYO
MRA ROCK	30-Jan	ACCREDITA- TION	L.FINCO		T.ROSEMAN, D.MILES, S.LITTON, L.SWANSON, D.HINMAN, J.GREEN, G.NIESEN, N.SIMONS, T.SAKAI, M.LEE, M.FRANKLIN, B.STRATTON, D.DOERR, D.BREITENSTEIN, B.HUEY, M.MYERS	CA REGION
MRA SNOW	4-5 Mar	ACCREDITA- TION	L.FINCO		T.SAKAI, D.MILES, D.BISHOP, L.SWANSON, T.ROSEMAN, S.LITTON, G.NIESEN, N.SIMONS, B.STRATTON, D.DOERR, D.BREITENSTEIN, B.HUEY	CA REGION

We had 21 Operations in 2016.

Alert	Mobilization	Transit	Search	Rescue/Incident
4	0	5	5	7

Thirteen of the requests to assist came from agencies outside of Kern County.

Kern	Inyo	Alpine	San Bernardino	Tulare	Tuolumne
8	9	1	1	1	1

Breaking down the Operations by month shows October being our busiest month.

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	1	0	0	0	4	4	1	0	6	2	0

**- Public Education Committee, 2016 Year End Report:**

The table below details the 774 hours CLMRG spent on Public Education activities in 2016.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Hours</b>
6 April 16	Girl Scout Encampment	54
April 2016	ESDP Presentation	3
14 April 16	IWV CERT Block Party	20
May 2016	Lost But Found Safe and Sound	7
June-Aug 2016	Summer Class - Basic Mountaineering & Mountaineering Safety	650
9 July 16	Hiking Tips for Families Ridgcrest Library	1
October 2016	Rappelling Demo Foreign Exchange Student Program Burroughs High School	9
19 Nov 16	High Desert Classic Mountain Bike Race	18
	Misc	12

**-Training Committee, 2016 Year End Report**

CLMRG spent a total of 3,620 hours training and drove over 17,000 miles doing it! The table below details the different training events and members participating in each. The training events are categorized as Mountain Climbing, First Aid, Rescue Skills, Search, or Rock Climbing.

<b>Event Type</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Miles</b>
First Aid	125	1,080
Rescue	1,063	4,080
Rescue/First Aid	8	40
Mountain Climbing	1,799	8,050
Rock Climbing	582	3,390
Search	43	430
<b>2016 Year Total</b>	<b>3,620</b>	<b>17,070</b>

China Lake is funded in part by the United Way of Indian Wells Valley



China Lake Mountain Rescue Group  
PO Box 2037  
Ridgecrest, CA 93556

