



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP
P.O. BOX 2037
RIDGECREST, CA 93555

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| SCHEDULE OF EVENTS |
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| January 14 | Meeting "Gearing Up for Operations" | Finco/VanVerst/Ostermann |
| January 18-21 | Bolton-Brown | Ostermann |
| January 26 | CRMRA Meeting | Ostermann |
| January 26-27 | Tin and Dry Mountains | Renta |
| February 2-3 | Bishop Creek - (ski) | L. Lucas |
| February 9-10 | Eagle | Mitchell |
| February 11 | Meeting "Tracking Slides" | D. Burge/Renta/L. Lucas |
| February 16-18 | Mineral King (ski) | D. Lucas |
| February 23-24 | Pyramid/Tucki/Thimble | Finco |
| March 2-3 | MRA Workshop- Tracking | Ostermann |
| March 9-10 | Panamint to Telescope | Rockwell |
| March 11 | Meeting | J. Westbrook/Schafhauser/Gray |

Operation Reports

90-17 7/24/90 Search Duck Lake Mitchell

At 12:30 am the pager went off. The Mono County Sheriff requested our help in the search for a lost 12-year-old, Matt Hicks, near Duck Lake.

Matt had been dropped off the previous morning at 8:30 by his mother, to go fishing around Lake Mary. His mother returned at 2:00 pm and Matt was not at the place where they had arranged to meet.

A hasty search by Matt's father down the lake's outlet to Old Mammoth turned up nothing. Later that evening the June Lake team was called. When the June Lake team arrived, they interviewed several backpackers who had talked with Matt near Duck Lake. He had told them he was going to Red's Meadow. Three teams were fielded that evening. One team went in from Red's Meadow, one dog team went over Duck Pass and the third team went over Mammoth Pass.

We arrived at search base at 6:00 am. Daryl Hinman and Linda Finco were to be flown to the 9200 foot level near the John Muir Trail by the Forest Service and walk the trail down to Duck Lake. Frank Buffum and I were to hike over the crest and search the Deer Lakes area and then continue on to the trail.

At 7:50 we received word over the radio that Matt had walked out to a ranger station at Pumice Flats. He was in good condition. Matt said he went to sleep on the trail shortly after dark. The distance from the place where Matt was last seen to the ranger station at Pumice Flats is about 10 miles.

90-18 7/24/90 Alert Lake Ediza Mitchell

While we were waiting for Matt's father to pick up his son, base camp received word that there was an injured backpacker near Shadow and Ediza lakes. We were asked to stand by for a possible rescue. The forest service helo was released from the Matt Hicks search to go help the injured hiker. The helo picked up the injured hiker and flew her to the hospital, so we were not needed.

90-19 8/2/90 Mobilization Lone Pine Hinman

At 2230 on August 2, a very sick 55 year- old man wandered away from the convalescent home in Lone Pine. CLMRG was called for the search at 0820 the next morning via the paging system. The operation was cancelled at 0930, while we were in the process of mobilizing at the CLMRG hut. The subject had been located in good condition in the yard of a house near the convalescent home.

J. Westbrook and M. Schmierer coordinated the callout. Mitchell, Leiser, D. Burge, Ostermann, Wisecarver and Seibold committed to the search.

90-20 8/4/90 Transit Mount Darwin Hinman

Scott Philips, age 34, and Greg Mucks, age 40, were dimbing Mount Darwin on 3 August. They reached the summit by their technical route with no problems, but then had difficulties finding the descent route. When they had not returned to their base camp by late morning the following day, others in their party went for help.

CLMRG was contacted on the pager by the Inyo County Sheriffs Office at 1340 on 4 August. At that time, they had a helo air search in progress. Sheila Rockwell and Betty Meng did a callout which resulted in only one other member, Frank Buffum, besides myself. We began the drive to the base camp at the Bishop airport at 1500.

Meanwhile personnel from Inyo County Sheriffs Posse were flown into the area. They located the two dimbers walking back to their base camp at about 1720. Other than being tired from their over 24 hour epic descent, they were okay.

Frank and I arrived at base camp 20 minutes later. We were back in China Lake after the long transit by 2030.

90-21 8/ 9-10/ 90 Transit Treasure Lake Hinman

At 2050 on the evening of 9 August, CLMRG was contacted by the Inyo County Sheriffs Office to assist with the rescue of two hypothermic backpackers at Treasure Lake in the Rock Creek Basin. The two men, along with

all their equipment, had gotten wet during a summer thunderstorm. Their two companions hiked out for help. Bob Huey, Dianne Lucas and Loren Castro responded to the callout by Sheila Rockwell and Betty Meng. We left for base camp at 2200. Unfortunately, 1 had car problems near Little Lake. We transferred Huey and the necessary equipment to the second

At 0830 Monday, the campsite was located and Bob was found in the tent in good condition. Bob explained to the searchers that he and Vi had made it to the summit of Rodger Peak in the middle of the storm on Saturday. When they descended, they went down the wrong side. Since it was getting late and the storm was not letting up, they decided to bivvy. They found an area sheltered by rocks and got inside a tube tent that Bob had carried. It was a long, cold night. The next morning, they proceeded back up the peak and then down the correct side, towards Lake Catherine. At Lake Catherine, Vi told Bob to go on ahead and hurry back to camp. Neither Bob nor Vi knew that their friends had already hiked out to report them overdue. Vi never made it back to the camp on Sunday. Bob told us she had no food or bivvy gear with her.

Base had the CHP helo fly over the Lake Catherine area to see if they could spot anything. Some footprints could be seen, but they appeared to just wander. Base decided to use the CH-47 to move searchers into the Thousand Island Lake area and set up a remote base camp there. The CHP helicopter would be used to put a dog team and a search team in the Lake Catherine area where Vi was last seen by Bob. Gleason and Buffum were sent to the Agnew Meadow trailhead just in case Vi missed the campsite and was hiking out to the trail head.

By this time team members from Ventura and Malibu had arrived at base along with more members from the June Lake team. Base was deploying search teams, using the CH-47, to contain all the drainages and chutes around Lake Catherine. Before transporting the dog team into Lake Catherine, the CHP helicopter wanted to search over the area to burn off some fuel. At 1100, they saw someone who fit the description of Vi. At 1130, they picked her up and reported that she was in good condition. The CH-47 returned all searchers back to base by 1230.

I was unable to find out why Vi did not make it back to camp. Bob surmised that she attempted to make it over the pass, but got disoriented then hiked to a wooded area a thousand feet below Lake Catherine so that she would have shelter and firewood for the night. (Carol Burge coordinated with Janet Westbrook and Carol VanVerst assisting.)

90-26 8/22/90 Rescue
North Palisade Hinman

On Tuesday, 21 August, Mike Yolky was climbing 14,242 foot North Palisade, alone from his base camp in Sam Mack Meadow. By 1100, he had ascended the U-Notch snow couloir and was climbing the steep third class rock on the west side, when a large rock he was using for a hold came loose. It fell against his legs and unable to move, he began yelling for help. During the night, a Sequoia National Park backcountry ranger in Palisade Basin heard his calls, but was unable to establish contact with him. The following morning, a Park Service helicopter began a search for the source of the calls.

While this search was in progress, the Park Service contacted CLMRG at 0820 via the China Lake Police, using the paging system. I phoned Ranger Roger Blain at the Sequoia National Park Headquarters, who requested a team of technical climbers. He said he was working on helicopter support to fly us directly from China Lake to the Palisade Basin. We began mobilizing at the hut.

Meanwhile, the Park Service helicopter located Mike. After several attempts, they were able to lower a radio to him (one of the attempts cost a radio) and learn the details of his predicament. Ranger John Kraushaar, who was in the helicopter, decided that a helicopter pick-up directly from the ledge was possible. Both a California Air National Guard CH-47 from Stockton and a Navy SAR Huey from Lemoore were requested.

By 1000, nine CLMRG members were at the hut waiting for word on the possible helicopter transit. The Park Service decided to keep us on hold due to the impending helicopter rescue. During the next two hours, I had several conversations with Roger. I impressed on him the fact that even though a helicopter rescue was probable; they needed to keep us moving as a back-up. We were finally notified that they had requested a Forest Service helicopter to transport us from Lone Pine Airport and by 1230 we began the 80 mile drive there.

When we arrived at 1400, the helicopter was waiting. While Hine and Walker were being loaded, the Park Service again put us on hold because at that time the Lemoore Huey was attempting the rescue. They were concerned about unnecessarily transporting us in and the problem of having a fourth helo in the area. I explained to Roger that if we waited any longer, we might be unable to reach the subject by dark. So if the helo was unable to perform the rescue, Mike could spend a second night alone with minimal gear and probably no water. I convinced him to keep us moving, and the Forest Service helicopter left for the Palisade Basin with the two CLMRG personnel. The rest of the team continued to Big Pine, where we were to meet the Forest Service helicopter on its return flight.

During the drive, at 1445, we learned over the radio that the Lemoore helicopter had been successful. A Navy crewman had rappelled 200 feet out of the helo to the ledge. He tied off his rappel and placed Mike in a fishnet harness. He secured Mike to his rope and together they were pulled off the ledge. They were then hoisted into the Huey. This dangerous operation required a twenty minute hover at the 14,000 foot elevation, and was obviously a credit to the skills of the Lemoore SAR personnel who have performed many big wall rescues in Yosemite Valley. Mike was flown to the hospital at Bishop where he was found to be suffering from dehydration, exposure and severe lacerations and contusions to his legs.

CLMRG went to the Independence Airport and met Hine and Walker returning in the helicopter. They had reached the Palisade Basin, but never set down. The team returned to China Lake and secured the operation at 1800. Participating in the operation were Hine, Finco, Renta, Sakai, Leiser, S. Walker, Gray and Antonsen. Coordinating was S. Rockwell and Green, with telephone assistance from J. Westbrook and Schmierer.

90-27 9/12/90 Transit
Split Mountain Hine

Bob Huey got the callout started at 1845, collected the initial information, and passed the operation over to me. I made the follow-up call to Doug Wilson (Inyo County SAR) and confirmed the following information:

Glen Zabaor and his climbing partner were descending the northwest slope of Split Mountain during the afternoon of 12 September. Glen became separated from his partner who was leading the way down the ridge. His partner backtracked to where he had last seen Glen. Getting no response, he continued on out and contacted the Inyo Sheriff.

The Forest Service helicopter had flown two members of the Inyo team to the place where Glen was last seen. The helicopter then searched the area from the air. Neither group located any sign of Glen before darkness. Helicopter operations were scheduled to begin again at 0630 out of Taboose Campground.

Six CLMRG members met at the Rescue Hut at 2030 and we departed for Taboose Campground a half hour later. At 2145 we heard over the Inyo Sheriff's frequency that Glen had walked out. I confirmed that the operation was being secured and turned the team around. We were back at the hut and had the gear stored by 2300.

Other CLMRG members participating in this operation were Finco, Stogsdill, Mitchell, D. Burge and D. Lucas. Carol Burge coordinated with Carol VanVerst assisting.

90-28 9/13-15/90 Transit
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Finco

At 1800 on Thursday, 13 September, Arnold Gaffrey informed me that San Diego County had requested a callout of all southern California MRA teams to assist in a search for a missing 34-year-old man in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Janet Westbrook coordinated the callout and Carol Burge helped. That evening CLMRG had four people commit to go on the operation. The Sierra Madre 24 hour phone message informed me that teams were not required for Friday, but would be needed for Saturday and Sunday. After a couple of substitutions, the CLMRG members who traveled to the operation were Finco, Stogsdill, Silverman and Hueber.

While we were having breakfast at 0600 on Saturday, we were told that a body had been found the previous evening.

The search had been for Charles Hyske. His vehicle was noted in the state park parking lot on Friday, 7 September. After 72 hours, a DMV check found that the car was registered to an owner in Lodi, Charles' father confirmed that the vehicle belonged to his son, a pharmacist at the Children's Hospital in San Diego. His son had just tested HIV positive and was depressed. Charles had worked the graveyard shift at the hospital and got off work at 0800 on Friday, 7 September. The supervisor said Charles was despondent and spoke of suicide. A search was started Monday afternoon, 10 September. Due to a fire, county resources were limited. Small groups of searchers and dog teams were used over the next couple of days. People in the park reported seeing Charles on Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday evening a ranger driving home with his car window rolled down smelled something. A dog team was brought in and Charles' body was found - within a mile of his car and only a hundred yards from the edge of the road. From the condition of the body, the sheriff thought that Charles killed himself early in the week. CLMRG arrived back in Ridgecrest at 1200.

90-29 9/25-26/90 Search
Mt Whitney Area Finco

The Inyo County Sheriff contacted CLMRG at 0830 on Tuesday, 25 September, using our paging system. Deputy Oyster said there were two overdue hikers somewhere between the Symmes Creek Trailhead and Mount Whitney. The sheriff wanted CLMRG to search the Whitney trail.

Since I was unable to get a coordinator, Tom Stogsdill said he would call the roster and go on the operation. Besides Stogsdill, Leiser, R. Walker, D. Lucas and Cunningham responded to the callout. We arrived at the Lone Pine airport at 1210 where Sgt. Reed gave us more information on the overdue hikers.

Jeff Secrist and Steve King left the Symmes Creek trailhead on Saturday, 15 September. They planned to hike over Shepherd Pass to Lake South America, fish at some unnamed lakes, then follow the High Sierra Trail to Crabtree Meadow. The two would then hike over Whitney to the Portals. Jeff's brother was to pick them up on Sunday, 23 September. When they did not show up, they were reported overdue by their families. Storms the previous week made it likely that the two were delayed because of the new snow. However, Jeff's wife's mother received a call Sunday evening from a backpacker who said he had stopped to help Jeff and Steve and that one of them was mildly hypothermic. Jeff had given his phone number to call. The mother did not remember the name of the backpacker, the location of Jeff and Steve when they were helped, if they needed more help, or if they were just having someone call so their families would not worry.

Jeff's wife drove to Lone Pine with a map of the intended route. When the Park Service flew over this route, they spotted a group of 5 people heading up to Trail Crest from Crabtree Meadow. They were unable to land and determine if Jeff or Steve were in the group or if they had been seen. The Park Service had rangers in the Lake South America area searching on the ground. The plan was for CLMRG members to hike up the Whitney Trail, interviewing everyone on or camped along the trail. CLMRG members left base at 1300.

Since it looked like the search area might be a lot larger than just the east side of Mt. Whitney, I contacted Bart Hine to get more people. Eight more CLMRG members committed to start searching the next morning.

At 1640, Tuesday, CLMRG interviewed two hikers who had passed the group of 5 coming over the crest. They reported

that one of the 5 had a red beard. Steve had been described as having red hair, so an advance team of Leiser, Walker and Cunningham continued on up the trail. Stogsdill and D. Lucas stayed at Buckhorn to interview people and relay communications. The hikers said that people had been stranded in the Crabtree Meadow area for about five days because of storms and all the new snow.

At 1700, the advance team met the 5 hikers. Jeff and Steve were not in the group, but they were reported to be just behind them, coming down the trail. At this time the advance team was told about a lone hiker coming up over the crest who appeared to be having problems. It was decided that the advance team would hike up the trail and verify that Jeff and Steve were OK, then proceed up the trail to check on this other person. Twenty minutes later, the advance team met Jeff and Steve. They were in good condition. Their plan was to hike down to Outpost Camp and spend the night, then hike out the next morning. Jeff said that on Wednesday or Thursday they had camped at Guitar Lake and stayed there during the storm. They lost track of the days, but estimated they were in their tent for 40 to 60 hours. They had started hiking toward the crest at 0700 Tuesday morning.

When the Park Service ranger at Lake South America flew over the crest around noon, he saw a group of people heading up towards the crest with a lone hiker about two switchbacks below the group. The lone hiker, later identified as John Harkin, was the person reported to possibly be having trouble. His hiking partner was not concerned, explaining that John always hiked slower. The group had broken a good trail over the crest; however, they then glissaded down the east side and headed cross-country towards Outpost Camp without waiting for John. Since the advance team was unsure of John's condition, they headed up the trail to find him. Helicopters would not be able to go out until first light the next day. At 1850 the advance team found John just above Trailside Meadow. He was OK, but tired. Base notified the Park Service that everyone had been accounted for, and the extra CLMRG members were told they would not be needed. The advance team gave John some food and water and hiked with him down to Outpost Camp. Since everyone appeared to be in good condition and had plenty of gear, CLMRG hiked down to the Portals, arriving in base camp at 2315 and in Ridgecrest at 0130 the following morning. (Team members committing to the search were Green, Hine, Huey, Roseman, Burge, Antonsen, L. Lucas, and Castro)

Comments:

1. Base had a nice set-up to communicate with field teams and the Park Service. Base at Lone Pine Airport normally has a blind spot between Outpost Camp and Trail Camp, but with the relay at Buckhorn, they never lost contact with the advance team. Base used the Midland base and directional antenna to communicate with the field teams on Channel 1. Using an H-16 programmable tuned to the Park Service channel 7 and a whip antenna on a vehicle, base was able to communicate with

Park Service headquarters and the Park Service field team at Lake South America. This kept them informed of the status of the helicopter and the search effort on the west side of the crest. (Note: Field teams on the east side of the Sierra cannot receive or transmit on channel 7. If the search had continued over the crest the plan was to move base to Crabtree Meadow.)

2. The Lone Pine Airport will now have a fixed base operation, which means there will be a full-time resident at the airport. However, this may also mean an increased use of the airport and a lack of space for future operations. The resident in charge now is Cathy McCarney. She was very cooperative and said she would be willing to help in whatever way she could when we work out of the Lone Pine Airport.

90-30 11/5/90 Rescue Mt Whitney Trail Mitchell

At 0140 Monday morning, my pager went off. It was the Inyo County Sheriff's Office requesting CLMRG's assistance in rescuing an injured climber above Trail Camp on the Whitney Trail. She was with friends and had plenty of equipment for the night. We met at the Hut at 0300 and arrived at the Lone Pine Airport at 0435. An advance team of Bob Rockwell and Linda Finco departed for Trail Camp right away. The rest of the team waited at Lone Pine Airport for the arrival of the California Highway Patrol helicopter from Fresno. The CHP helo flew up the trail, trying without success to contact the advance team, then to land at Trail Camp. The helo then returned to the Lone Pine Airport.

Lorey Ravet, a 25 year old female, had been glissading down from Trail Crest to Trail Camp. When she attempted to self-arrest, her hands slid out of her gloves, which were too big for her, and she lost the ice axe. She slid 300 feet, went airborne, flipped over and landed on her back. The frame pack she was wearing protected her head and back from serious injuries. This was Lorey's first experience with an ice axe.

The advance team got to Lorey at 1020. She had two broken ribs, sore back, muscle spasms, sore lower left leg and sore shoulders. She was placed in the Zee splint and said she felt better.

The helo relayed three CLMRG members, Roseman, Sakai and Walker, and the stretcher and wheel, to Big Horn Park and then on up to Trail Camp. The helo waited at Trail Camp for Lorey to be brought down in the stretcher. At 1438, Lorey was on her way to the Lone Pine Hospital in the CHP helo. She suffered two broken ribs, possible kidney damage and a ruptured spleen.

At 1700, all team members were out of the field and we were back at the Hut by 2000. Team members who participated were: B. Rockwell, Finco, Mitchell, Roseman, Sakai, Leiser, Walker and Gleason. Coordinators were C. Burge and J. Westbrook. Team members who committed if needed were: Green, Stogsdill, D. Burge, Wisecarver, Buffum, L. Lucas, Wilson, R. Walker and Castro.

Lessons learned: Radio communication with team members walking up the Whitney Trail is poor at best from Lone Pine Airport. A relay is needed.

The Inyo County Sheriff informed me at 1735 that there was an injured male hiker, Mike Norton, above Trail Camp, on the Mt. Whitney Trail. Mike's injuries were: blood on his head and face, broken lower left leg with blood dripping, and a big contusion on the thigh of his right leg. The injured hiker was wearing shorts and a T-shirt. Yousaf Mahmound, Mike's hiking partner, had tied a wool shirt around the left leg, put socks on his hands and put his pack under him and then went for help.

I called on the pager for two persons for an advance team, but received only one response. Janet Westbrook called the roster, and could find only three other members who could go. Inyo Deputy, Sgt. Dan Lucas, gave permission for us to call other CRMRA teams and told me the sheriff's office would send a couple of members to help and the CHP helicopter would be at the Lone Pine Airport at first light. Sierra Madre and Ventura County SAR groups said they could help and would meet us at the Lone Pine Airport. I asked Indian Wells Valley SAR to stand by for a possible carry-out from Trail Camp to Whitney Portals. We arrived at the airport at 2130 to find 12 members of the Inyo Team setting up base camp.

The advance team of Linda Finco and Phil Wilson departed immediately carrying warm clothes and a sleeping bag for Mike. They were followed shortly by the Inyo team and Mike's climbing partner, Yousaf Mahmound

Tom Stogsdill stayed in base camp to set up check-in and out procedures and maintain communication with the field teams.

At 2330, Sgt. Mike Connolly of the AIR Operations of LA County called, wanting to know the location and injuries of Mike Norton. He said the Sikorsky, AIR 5 can fly and hover at the 12000 ft elevation without any trouble. With the request formalized by the Inyo Sheriff, AIR 5 was on its way.

The Ventura team arrived at midnight with 9 field team members. They were briefed and departed shortly with the stretcher and chemical heat packs. Seven members of the Sierra Madre team arrived and set off up the hill at about 0130.

At our request, the sheriff found a doctor who was willing to help and brought him to base camp. He was Dr. Keith Jackson who works at the Lone Pine Hospital.

At 0347, the CLMRG advance team reached Mike. Linda reported that he had a weak pulse and shallow breathing. He had a combination of serious head injuries, hypothermia and was in shock. Mike's arms and legs were cold and stiff. About 90 minutes later, Mike stopped breathing and rescue breathing was started. A few minutes later, CPR was started and continued until the paramedics arrived. At 0705, Air 5 dropped two of their paramedics within 25 yards of Mike's location. At 0709, they pronounced him dead. AIR 5 flew Mike's body to the Lone Pine Airport where Dr. Jackson examined him. There was a .5 inch depression in the back of the head. The doctor believed a fractured skull killed Mike. The only way he could have been saved was if he had been flown out immediately after the accident happened.

AIR 5 flew all teams back to base camp by 0936.

Lessons learned:

1. Check new members to ensure they have the necessary field equipment.
2. Ensure that enough personnel are kept in base camp to handle the radios, log sheets and whatever else comes up.
3. Think in advance about a trauma center. Lone Pine Hospital is not equipped for this. There are two trauma centers fairly close by - one at Antelope Valley and the other at Loma Linda.

Donors

Since the last issue of the Talus Pile CLMRG has received generous donations from several friends - some who are old friends and have helped sustain us through many years and some new friends. We extend our warmest thanks to all

T.M. and Virginia Stirling
Beth Henry
John and Ruth Gerhardt
Traute Peterson
Frederick Bode
Harvey Nelson
Johnny Olley
John and Marilyn Wick
James and Kathryn Wilson
William and Lois Adamsen

Scree

CLMRG manned first aid stations for the 1st Annual Desert Classic Mountain Bike Race, held in Ridgecrest on Sunday, 28 October. The only major accident of the day occurred early, near aid station one. Eric Wicker crashed on a steep downhill section of the course. CLMRG members determined Eric had a laceration near his right eye and a possible neck injury. He had been unconscious before CLMRG arrived. When Eric regained consciousness he could not remember whether he had crashed on his motorcycle or his mountain bike. Eric's neck was immobilized and he was placed on a backboard. His eye was bandaged and he was carried in a stretcher up the hill to where an ambulance was waiting. The paramedics took over from there.

Some minor first aid was given at the finish line, but most people wanted to keep the bloodied scrapes as mementos of the race. Approximately 240 riders participated in this first annual event.

The High Sierra Cyclists donated \$1000 to CLMRG for helping with the race. CLMRG members who participated were Linda Finco, Tom Stogsdill, Andrew Mitchell, Tom Roseman, Ron Leiser, Dennis Burge, Chris Ostermann, Mike Wisecarver, Phil Wilson, Dianne Lucas, Bill Martin, and Roger and Betty Meng.

CLMRG will host the spring 1991 National Mountain Rescue Association meeting in Ridgecrest, June 14-16. In addition to the business meeting on Sunday and a banquet Saturday evening, a number of other activities have been planned for those wishing to take advantage of nearby climbing and scenic opportunities.

Climbs of 14,495' Mount Whitney via the Class 3 Mountaineers' Route or the trail, will be offered on Friday and Monday. Technical climbing opportunities will be available at Owens Ridge. There will also be tours of Death Valley attractions and of the ancient Petroglyphs (rock drawings) on the north ranges of the China Lake Naval Weapons Center.

For more information, write to CLMRG, PO Box 2037, Ridgecrest, CA 93556 or call Andrew Mitchell at (619)375-0168 (evenings)

CLMRG Officers for 1991:

President: Bart Hine

Vice-President: Tom Roseman

Secretary: Tom Sakai

Treasurer: Dianne Lucas

MRA Representative: Chris Ostermann.

Switzerland's oldest mountain guide is believed to be 89-year-old Ulrich Inderbinen. "What I like is that I can do it at my age," said the Zermatt resident, adding: *if you want to see Almighty God you must go to the mountains*"

The Talus Pile is edited by Carol Burge.