

October 1993
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CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP
P.O.BOX 2037
RIDGECREST, CA 93555

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesdays, Oct 5-Nov 2	First Aid Topic I	First Aid Committee
October 8-11	Yosemite Valley	A. Mitchell
October 18	Meeting	Mitchell/Seibold/Moneypenny
October 22-24	Grand Canyon	Mitchell
October 23/24	First Aid for Mountain Bike Race	Finco
October 30-31	Panamint Traverse	Schafhauser
November 5-7	Red Rocks	Roseman
November 8	Meeting	Ganger/Kong/Florian
November 11-14	Mt. Abbot & Dade	Rockwell
November 19-21	Mt. Haeckel & Wallace	Dow
November 27/28	Spanish Needles	F. Buffum
Nov 30- Dec 2	CPR	First Aid Committee
December 3-5	Owens River Gorge	Roseman
December 8	Stretcher Hut Night	Training Committee
December 12	Owens Ridge	Training Committee
December 13	Meeting	Hueber/Renta/Schafhauser
December 16	Christmas Party	Bob & Sheila Rockwell
December 17-19	Eagle	A. Mitchell
Dec 30 - Jan 2	Mt. Tyndall	B. Rockwell
Jan-Feb-Mar	Floating Ski Trip	Hueber

Operation Reports

93-3 3/22 Search Argus Peak Mitchell

At 0810 on 22 March, my pager went off. It was Sgt. Dan Lucas from the Inyo County Sheriff's Office requesting our assistance to search for two overdue hikers. Dennis Emigh and his son Alexander were left at Crow Canyon at 1100 Sunday, 21 March. They were to hike up Argus Peak, stop at Christmas Spring, come out Wilson Canyon and walk to Pioneer Point by Sunday evening.

I called Mary Schmierer and asked her to call down the roster for members to meet at the Hut at 0915. The advance tracking team and the hasty search team departed at 0915. The tracking team was to start tracking from the place last seen. The hasty search team was to go to the summit of Argus Peak and check the register. A little later other field teams went to search Great Falls Basin and Wilson Canyon. These are the only other exits from this area.

I called the reporting party and asked what Dennis and Alexander had taken to eat and drink, a description of them and what they were wearing. They had only taken two quarts of water and some apples and oranges. Dennis is 55 years old and is in good shape because he rides a bike all the time. Alexander is 16 years old, and is in good shape because he is on the track team.

Base camp was set up at Pioneer Point. This provided us access to a phone, a store for liquids and most important the final destination of Dennis and Alexander.

Shortly after the search team started driving up Wilson Canyon; a car coming down stopped the team and told them that Dennis was with them. Alexander was still back in the canyon near a family member's van that had a flat tire. The van had been driven up the evening before by someone looking for the missing hikers, and was left there. The team continued up the canyon and soon found Alexander.

All field teams were contacted to return to base camp. I interviewed Dennis and asked what had happened. They had started towards the summit of Argus at 1100, reached a black knob at 1430 and realized they were not going to make it back before dark. They started hiking towards Great Falls Basin to exit there, then changed their minds and decided to go back to their original route and were overtaken by darkness. They stopped and decided to wait until sunrise before going on and had just run out of water. It was cold and they did not get much sleep.

China Lake members who participated were: Finco, Stogsdill, Roseman, Walker, Sakai, Rindt, S. Pappas, Dow, Myers, A. Jain, Breitenstein, Stenger, T. Mitchell and A. Mitchell and coordinators Schmierer and C. Burge.

Comments:

Dan Lucas called to give us a heads up before he called OES. I called Sgt. Williamson, Kern County Sheriff's Office, and told him to expect a phone call from OES. Sgt. Williamson offered the helicopter and cooks to come out if they were needed. I called the base Air Operations before I left town to find if the SAR helo was available if needed. The answer was a qualified yes.

93-4 4/16 Transit Saline Valley Mitchell

At 0550 on 16 April, Sgt. Gary Davis of the Kern County Sheriff's Office, requested CLMRG's assistance in searching for a missing 71 year-old, Thomas Bailey, in Saline Valley. I asked Sheila Rockwell to do a callout of all team members who could respond to meet at the Hut at 0730. I called Sgt. Dan Lucas of the Inyo County Sheriff's Posse who gave me this information:

On Wednesday, 14 April, Thomas Bailey convinced a tow truck driver, Bobby, to go after Mr. Bailey's truck which was stuck in Saline Valley. While driving down a dirt road in Saline Valley, Bobby nearly drove his tow truck into a large, deep wash. Bobby told Mr. Bailey to stay at the tow truck while he went for help. When Bobby returned with Sgt. Dan Lucas and Pat Elliott, Mr. Bailey was not at the tow truck. Sgt. Lucas and Pat hiked up the road and discovered that no one had driven up the road and that there was no truck in the area. They continued hiking up the road and located some cabins, but no sign of Mr. Bailey was found. The area was searched by a fixed wing aircraft and still no sign of Mr.

Bailey or his vehicle was found.

We departed the hut at 0815 to meet Sgt Lucas at the Inyo Queen and Lead Canyon Road in Saline Valley. At 1010, between Olancho and Saline Valley, we heard over the Sheriff's frequency that Mr. Bailey had been located and was in good condition. We returned to Ridgecrest at 1210.

Those members who participated were: Hine, Stogsdill, Roseman, Hueber, Renta, C. Jain, A. Jain, Breitenstein, Stenger, Florian, A. Mitchell and coordinators S. Rockwell, C. Pappas, and VanVerst.

93-5 5/2 Transit
Joshua Tree Hine

The National Park Service requested assistance from CLMRG to search for a missing man in the Joshua Tree National Monument. The man had last been seen two days previously. Hasty teams, dogs, and helicopters had not located the subject and it was time to increase the search effort.

The Search Commander, Ranger Paul Henry, indicated he would be deploying teams through-out the night and wanted us to respond as soon as possible. Search Base was located at the Cottonwood Ranger Station off 1-10. He also informed us that the search status would be broadcast over the BLM repeater at half-hour intervals.

Four CLMRG members departed Ridgecrest at 1620. We had traveled for approximately two hours when the cancellation call was broadcast. All members had returned to the hut and stored the equipment by 2015.

The CLMRG members traveling were Bart Hine, Andrew Mitchell, Dennis Burge and Mike Myers. Carol Burge, Sheila Rockwell, and Terry Mitchell acted as Coordinators for this operation.

93-6 5 /1 3 Search
Coso Junction Mitchell

At 2340 on 13 May we were asked to search for a six-year-old boy who supposedly ran out the back door of the store at Coso Junction. Later, the coordinator Mary Schmierer, called to inform me that the missing person might be a 12-year-old who had run away from his home in Inyokern sometime that morning.

Two advance teams departed the Hut at 0045 to go to the Cal Trans rest area-the place the child was last seen- and do a perimeter cut looking for tracks. The Inyo team was looking around the mobile homes, on top of the roofs in the rest area and in the trees.

One of the advance teams found foot prints inside and outside the fence around the rest stop. Base camp sent a team to draw the tracks. I went with them to look at the prints and overheard a conversation about a mountain bike and the child who had run away from home. I went back to base camp and discussed with Pat Elliot and Lee Lucas the fact that we did not really know what had happened.

The sheriff reported that a trucker had seen someone walking down Highway 395, heading south about two miles south of Coso Junction. The sheriff left to investigate and we sent two teams to search the roadside on both sides of the highway.

We needed more information and Pat said the boy's father was at the store and we should interview him. We confirmed that the missing person was indeed a 12-yearold who had run away from home on Thursday morning. The father had followed the bike tracks from their home until they reached Highway 14 north of Inyokern. Further investigation found that the boy and been seen at Brady's store and had tried to purchase a knife. Later he had been seen in the rest area at Coso Junction.

The father had been called to come identify the bike which had been found just west of the Coso Junction store. He confirmed that the bike did belong to his son.

I asked where the exact place was that the bike had been found. That location would give us two pieces of information - the last known location of the boy and foot prints. With the foot prints we would know if the prints found earlier were those of the missing boy. Base camp called the deputy who had found the bike and asked him to come show us the exact spot. Pat Elliot went with the deputy to locate where the bike was found. While they were looking, the missing boy was found. Even though it was cold, the 12-yearold was determined not to be found. He was wearing a T-shirt, shorts and shoes.

Those who participated were: Bob Huey, Kit Antonsen, Mike Wisecarver, Chris Ostermann, Robby

Dow, Chris Jain, Mike Stenger, Lee Lucas, Andrew Mitchell and coordinators Mary Schmierer and Betty Meng.

**93 - 7 5/24 Search
Shepherd Pass Walker**

Robert Anderson (47) and his son Kimball(8) were attempting to traverse from Symmes Creek trailhead on the east side of the Sierra Crest to the Wolverton Ski area on the west side via Shepherd Pass. This route is commonly referred to as the High Route. They were due on the west side on 5/23/93.

On the evening of 5/24/93, I received a call from the Navy SAR crew at the NAWC airfield requesting some assistance with an air reconnoiter of the Shepherd Pass area. They asked me to grab some maps and be at the airfield in 5 minutes. I proceeded to the airfield and briefed the helo crew on the area. The pilot decided that there was not enough on-station time to make an air search worth the effort. The mission was rescheduled for a 0600 launch the following morning. I called Carol Burge and asked her to start an alert for a probable operation.

The following morning the air search showed clouds pushing over the crest from an approaching weather front and 30-50 knot winds pouring over the passes. An air search or any helo support for the morning was out of the question. I returned to the NAWC airfield and called Carol to start some field teams to the hut and she informed me that Bart Hine was at the hut with four other people ready to go. They departed as the advance team and I met two other people at the hut an hour later, and we followed to base camp.

The advance team deployed to search the trailhead-to-Shepherd Pass leg of the route. They made it to a little past Mahogany Flat and a second team was preparing to be inserted at Shepherd Pass when the word came down that the two subjects had been located and evacuated by the Park Service helo. Our team was out of the field by 1900.

Participants were: Stogsdill, Antonsen, Hueber, M. Buffum, Rindt, Hine F. Buffum, S. Walker and coordinator C. Burge.

**93 - 8 6/5 Search
Tahquitz Valley Mitchell**

On 5 June at 2225, the Sgt. Marty Williamson of the Kern County Sheriff's Office came on the pager with the news that CLMRG had been requested by OES to assist the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit in a search for a missing 65-year-old male, Mort Kantor. Mort was last seen in Tahquitz Valley at 1500 on 5 June. It was raining and snowing.

Mort and three other men left Humber Park Friday and camped in Tahquitz Valley. Saturday they hiked up to Strawberry Cienga. While out on the hike all their clothes became wet and they were all cold. They decided to hike out at 1400 Saturday afternoon.

Each man was self-contained. Each had their own tent, stove, sleeping bag and food. Each man packed up and they all started hiking out at different times. The next to last man to leave saw Mort packing up as he left at 1500. When Mort did not arrive at Humber Park by 1800, the three men decided to ask for help.

We departed Ridgecrest at 0015 on 6 June and arrived at base camp in Humber Park at 0513. The field teams had a cold breakfast while they prepared their packs for the search. The teams were given their assignments and were headed up the trail at 0615. At 0635 Mort was located and the teams returned to base camp.

Mort had become lost, heading east away from Saddle Junction, almost as soon as he had started hiking on Saturday afternoon. He had tied his sleeping bag to the outside of his pack. When it became wet and heavy, he decided he could travel faster by dropping his pack and equipment. At dark on Saturday, he found some overhanging rocks. He dug into the ground and buried his legs. He said he was in a narrow crack so that his arms went to sleep. He would contract his arms 35 times to bring back circulation. He slept very little during the night. In the morning Mort remembered he had a small compass. He used it and had started heading west when he was found.

CLMRG members who participated: Tom Sakai, Frank Buffum, Larry Seibold, Mike Stenger, Steve

Florian, Kevin McCormick, Andrew Mitchell and coordinators Mary Schmierer and Terry Mitchell.

93 - 9 6/27 Incident
Trail Peak Stogsdill

What started out as a normal day trip hike up Trail Peak during our annual CLMRG Mountaineering Class, turned into an incident when Raelee Polton, a member of the class, fell after twisting her right ankle during the descent. Chris Antonsen was the closest first aider to Raelee and began by asking her to tell him what had happened and what she felt. Chris then specifically asked if Raelee had felt or heard a break and Raelee replied "no". Raelee said that she had apparently twisted or jammed her left ankle as the result of the fall. Chris then palpated the left ankle and lower calf for a possible break and applied a "Co-Flex" type cohesive flexible bandage after not being able to detect a break and believing what Raelee told him - that she had twisted it and not heard or felt a break. I arrived on the scene as Chris was applying the bandage and also questioned Raelee about her injury and how it happened. She told me that it was her right ankle that caused her to fall and that it had always been her weak ankle. Rather than take chances on the right ankle folding again, I asked if I could apply an "Ace" bandage to her right ankle to support it if she elected to continue walking down.

After both ankles were bandaged, I asked Raelee if she felt like she could walk after a rest, or if I needed to start a rescue operation. Raelee responded that she would like to try to walk down the mountain and thought she could with some help. As we were only a short distance below the summit of Trail Peak, Raelee was advised that it would be a long hike back to our vehicles and that it would take some time depending on how she felt, but that time was no factor for us. Raelee understood that the option existed for a carry-out if she felt that she could not walk on her own.

The trip down the mountain, across Horseshoe Meadows and back to our vehicles - approximately three miles and 1600 vertical feet - took nearly six hours. The assisted walk-out was rather uneventful. We supported Raelee down the steep and rocky areas until we arrived on the trail where she walked mostly unassisted the rest of the way. Throughout the egress, Raelee was questioned as to how she was feeling and how her ankles were holding out - especially the feelings in her toes to make sure that the bandages were not restricting circulation. Raelee said that there was a pulling or sliding feeling along the outside of her left leg, but was still set on walking out. The parking lot was a welcome sight for all of us. Raelee was driven back to Ridgecrest where she could seek medical advice.

The following morning, I called Raelee to find out how she was doing and was told that the emergency room doctor and informed her that she had a fractured fibula and that she should not have walked on it. Had we suspected a fracture, she would have been advised to be carried out rather than to walk on her own. This is akin to Monday morning quarterbacking, but it does remind us that detection of a fractured bone, without the aid of an X-ray and an experienced doctor to read it, is very difficult for the average first aider in the field.

CLMRG personnel participating in the incident were: Chris Antonsen, Charley Cox, Paul DeRuiter, Dave Ganger, Scott Moneypenny, Frank Sanford and trip leader, Tom Stogsdill.

93 - 10 6/26 Incident
Thor Peak Hinman

One of the CLMRG Mountaineering Class day trips was to Thor Peak in the Whitney region. The group of four CLMRG instructors, thirteen students and one guest had climbed the mountain via the southwest slope and were descending the East chute to the Whitney Trail when one of the students was injured. Al Coleman slipped on the talus and banged his knee against a rock, dislocating the kneecap. Ace Walker, a Naval Flight Surgeon, was with Al who is also in the Navy. By the time I climbed up to them a few minutes later, Ace had reduced the dislocation. With an elastic bandage and tape to immobilize the knee and support from people at his sides, Al thought he could walk.

Luckily this had happened only about 100 feet above the junction with the trail. We belayed him down through the steep brush and talus to the trail to prevent him from falling forward. Once there, he was able to walk down the trail with support from someone on one side and an ice axe for a cane on the other. Later he felt comfortable enough with only the axe and occasional support from someone over the

big steps in the trail.

We arrived at Whitney Portal at 1900. The incident, which had occurred at 1715, had only delayed our arrival by an hour.

CLMRG members involved were Stogsdill, Antonsen, Mitchell, Dow and Myers.

DONORS

The CLMRG extends warm thanks for donations from the following Friends:

**The Whitney Portals Store
The Over The Hill Track Club
Shelley McEwan**

SCREE

Rescue Insurance for Climbers: The National Park Service will probably test a plan next spring that would require climbers to buy private-rescue insurance policies when they register to climb or enter the back-country. Sites for the pilot program would be Alaska's Denali National Park and Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington.

Under the plan, climbers who are rescued, but have not bought such a policy might be billed for their rescue. Although the idea has been discussed for a number of years, last year's \$405,000 tab for 22 rescues at Denali's Mt. McKinley - the country's highest peak - and the 11 fatalities there prompted further study, which the Park Service said is inspired by concerns for public safety as well as economics.

Such a plan would not apply to children who become lost or separated from their parents. There are no plans, as of yet, to institute the program in all national parks that have climbing or back-country hiking.

Ronald Atkins has been a member of CLMRG since 1972. Most of those years, he served as a Team Leader and was President of the group for two years. Now Ron has retired from NAWC and is taking a job with the Department of Energy in Livermore. He was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in CLMRG at his retirement party on October 7. We will miss Ron very much. We wish him and his wife Beverly all the best in their new life in northern California and look forward to their return here when they really retire.

CLMRG member Steve Walker and Caroline Garrett were recently married in Yosemite Valley. Congratulations Caroline and Steve!

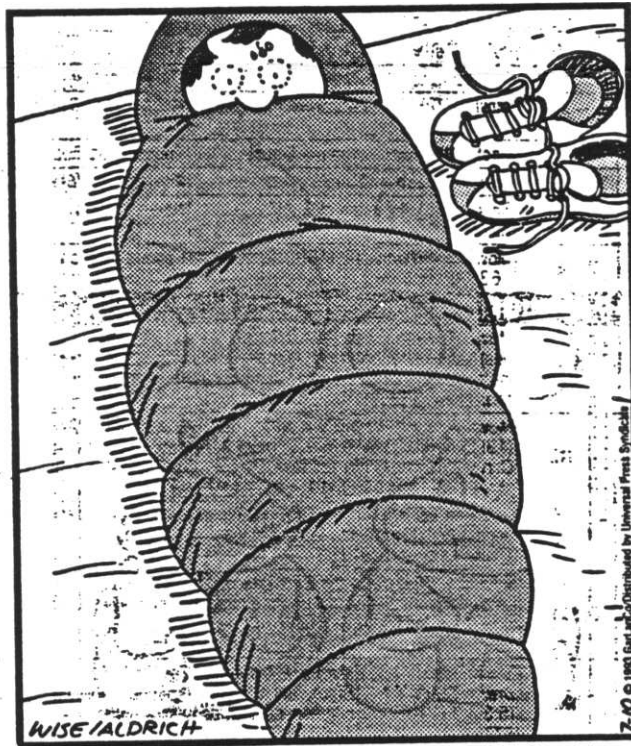
*There are only three sports -
bull fighting, race car driving and
mountain climbing.*

All the rest are games.

Ernest Hemingway

The Talus Pile is edited by Carol Burge

REAL LIFE ADVENTURES



You don't actually go to sleep in a sleeping bag; you pass out from claustrophobia induced panic and heatstroke

