



April 1996  
#98

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

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

April 2-30, Tuesdays	First Aid Topic A	First Aid Com.
Easter Week	Girl Scout Encampment	Schmierer
April 6	Kid Mountain	Rockwell
April 8	Meeting/First Aid Kits	Hueber/Roseman/Dorey
April 13-14	Tracking Seminar	Training Com.
April 19-21	Mt. Bolton Brown	Sakai
April 27-28	Red Rocks Climbing	Roseman
May 3-5	Thunderbolt	Rockwell
May 8	Stretcher Hut Night	Training Com.
May 11	Stretcher Practice-Rock	Training Com.
May 12	Thor (Stemwinder)	Roseman
May 13	Meeting-Ready Packs	Rockwell/DeRuiter/Leiser
May 14, 16	CPR	Mitchell
May 17-19	Tahquitz	Hueber
May 18	CRMRA Regional Mtg	Myers
May 25-27	North Palisade	Sakai
May 31-June 2	Basin/Four Gables/Tom	Rockwell
June 8	Search Exercise	Training Com.
June 9	Paiute Monument	Finco
June 10	Meeting/Knot	Finco/Seibold/Barker
June 11-July 24	Summer Class	Class Com.
June 14-16	Mt. Ruskin	Finco
June 15-16	Nat'l MRA (Glacier NP)	Myers
June 18-19	Summer Class	Class Com.
June 22	Cirque Peak	Mitchell

## Operation Reports

**95 - 18      11/6/95      Search**  
**Mt. Whitney                      Mitchell**

At 2345 on 5 November, Sgt. Marty Williamson called on behalf of the Inyo County Sheriff's Office to request assistance in the search for Chris Clark in the Whitney area. Chris was last seen ascending the Mountaineer's route at 1300 on November 4. His climbing partner turned back at that time because he was feeling sick. When Chris did not return to their base camp by the next morning, his partner reported him overdue. Chris was very experienced and had plenty of equipment with him to spend a night out.

We arrived at the Lone Pine airport at 0645, November 6. I met with Sgt. Randy Nixon and went over the area searched by the CHP the day before. I suggested that Chris may have fallen down towards the Arctic Lake area just north of Mt. Whitney. I wanted to send two CLMRG members on the first helo flight that day to search the Mountaineer's Route and the Arctic Lake area. When the CHP helo departed at 0830, it carried CLMRG member Daryl Hinman and two CHP flight crew members. Twenty minutes later the pilot called and said they were returning to Base. Chris' body had been located at the 13,000 ft level above the Arctic Lakes. They would fly in the rescue team, one person at a time. The round trip time was about 25 minutes.

Communications with the field team were often non-existent. Because of a misunderstanding with base, we did not get a relay placed on top of Mt. Whitney which would have greatly improved our communications.

At 1000, Sgt. Nixon requested a larger helicopter in order to extract all field team members at one time. The Park Service (NPS) at Kings Canyon said they would supply one, even if they had to rent it. When the NPS flew into Lone Pine Airport with a contract helo from Fresno, they were informed from their headquarters that the recovery was near Mt. Muir, which is located on the south side of Mt. Whitney. The CHP helo made the pick up of the body and one field team member. On the return trip the NPS helo followed the CHP helo to the landing zone and picked up the rest of the team. All field team members were out of the field just as the sun set behind the crest at 1602.

CLMRG members participating: Daryl Hinman, Tom Sakai, Bob Rockwell, Werner Hueber, Steve Florian, Terry Mitchell, Sheila Rockwell and Andrew Mitchell.

Lessons learned: Chris had the right equipment to cross ice strapped to his pack. Use of this gear would have prevented the accident.

**95 - 19      11/11/95      Incident**  
**Tahquitz                      Roseman**

A group of CLMRG members went climbing at Tahquitz Rock during the weekend of 10-12 November. On Saturday afternoon, Debbie Breitenstein and I were climbing the Fingertrip route behind another party. We caught up to the other party at the first belay and I noticed that the leader was off route on the second pitch. I yelled up to him and he was able to downclimb and get back on route. A little bit later, I asked the belayer, who had just introduced himself as Gary, to caution Larry not to climb past the belay for the second pitch. As Larry climbed about 15 feet past the belay spot, he took a leader fall. When Gary asked him if he was OK, Larry replied that he thought he had broken his ankle. Further yelling (as Larry was out of sight) confirmed that Larry could not move from his position. I decided to climb up to Larry with the intent of lowering him to the ground if possible. I took an extra rope that Gary had at the belay point. During this time Hueber went down to call 911. When I could finally see Larry, there was a large amount of blood below his feet. Larry replied that he thought he could keep his right leg off the rock if I could lower him. I lowered him about 200 feet to the ground, where Green attended to the open fracture of his right ankle. I downclimbed the route and then Gary, Debbie and I rappelled to the ground. With the help of three climbers from Minnesota, we carried Larry over to Lunch Rock to wait for the Riverside team. The first Riverside members showed up at 1800, but left shortly to look for another party stranded on the rock. About 1900, the next group of four Riverside members

arrived. They asked for our help in the carry-out since they were short handed. We reached the parking lot at 2200 and turned Larry over to the ambulance folks. CLMRG members were: Roseman, Green, Finco, Hueber, Breitenstein and Florian.

Note: I had trouble releasing the prusik I used to pass the knot. It would have been easy if I would have had a knife or if I had thought ahead to tie a load-releasing hitch. This caused about a 15 minute delay in getting Larry to the ground.

**95 - 20      11/11-12/95      Rescue  
Tahquitz                      Roseman**

While we were waiting for Riverside to show up on the previous incident, we heard a loud speaker from below request the injured party call on the cellular phone. We were curious as we didn't have such a phone. When Henry of the Riverside hasty team reached us, we learned that a party of three, somewhere on the North side of the rock, were off route and stranded and did have a cellular phone which they had used to call for help. Later that evening, when we arrived at base camp from the first operation, the Riverside leader asked if we would help carry gear up to rescue the stranded party. We gave them the number of Werner's cabin and went to eat. Riverside called later that evening and asked if we could help and gave us an OES number. Three of us had enough energy to respond after an excellent spaghetti dinner made mostly by Carol Burge. We arrived back at base camp a little after midnight and carried a sleeping bag and a 300 ft rope up to the rescue site. With the aid of a large spotlight at the base, Riverside located the party and rappelled down to them. The party of three ascended to the top, one at a time. The last one arrived at 0530. We then all hiked down to the parking lot, arriving at 0800. We went back to the cabin to clean up, then joined the Riverside team for a breakfast, compliments of the Riverside Sheriff.

CLMRG members were: Roseman, Hueber, and Florian.

**95 - 21      12/2/95      Search  
Kern River                      Mitchell**

The Kern County Sheriff's Office asked CLMRG to help in the search for a missing man who had jumped into the Kern River near Keyesville. Ozzie Jiminez jumped into the Kern River on 18 June and was presumed to have drowned. We were to meet with the other Kern County SAR teams in the park in Lake Isabella at 0800, December 2 to receive our assignment.

The Watermaster at the Lake Isabella Dam turned the water off at 2000 on December 1. This put the river at its lowest level 12 hours later. Even though it left some 20 to 30 ft deep pools, it made the river easier to search and to cross.

CLMRG was assigned the section where Highway 178 and 155 intersect. We were to search both sides of the river, looking for black shorts, tennis shoes and bones. We were assigned one member of the Kernville team who was familiar with the area. We searched about 1.5 miles down river and did not find what we were looking for.

Two team members were assigned to assist the divers in the Keyesville area.

Five persons were missing; two were found. Mr. Jiminez was located 3/4 mile from where he had jumped in. His body was located in a pool of water 22 ft deep and very cold. The pool is surrounded by 40 ft boulders. Due to the ruggedness of the area, it was easier to float the body down stream than to try and remove it using ropes.

Team members who participated were: Al Green, Mike Myers, Dennis Burge, Mike Renta, Arun Jain, Dave Ganger, Scott Moneypenny, Jerry Kong, Mike Dorey, Mary Schmierer and Andrew Mitchell.

Lessons learned:

1. Wear long sleeved shirt and long pants. Stinging nettles and poison oak were present.
2. River right is the hardest side. River left had a trail which is used by fishermen.

<b>Donors</b>
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CLMRG extends warm thanks for donations from the following friends:

Sam and Barbara Van Gundy  
 John Olley  
 James and Kathryn Wilson  
 John and Marilyn Wick  
 Janet Hammond  
 Dorothy Gould, In memory of Geraldine Milano  
 William and Lois Adamsen, In memory of Carl Heller  
 Southern California Mountaineers Association  
 Customers of the Whitney Portal Store  
 T.M. and Virginia Stirling, In memory of Eric Eichmann  
 James Fleckenstein  
 Bill Harris and Ash B.B.H., In memory of Stan Dalbec  
 Ron and Bev Atkins, In memory of Carol Pappas and Robby Dow

<b>1995 Annual Reports</b>
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Summary of Operations – Al Green

Total Operations	21	Requesting Agencies	
Rescues	6	Inyo County	7
Searches Alerts	9	Kern County	3
Recoveries	0	Los Angeles County	1
Transits	0	Riverside County	4
Incidents	3	San Bernardino County	4
Mobilizations	1	Fresno County	1
		Yosemite National Park	1
Operations by Month		Total of 28 victims	
January	1	O.K.	15
February	3	Injured	8
March	1	Not found	1
April	0	Dead	4
May	2		
June	0		
July	4	CLMRG Data	
August	3	Total person-hours	2,326
September	2	NWC excused hours	474
October	1	Total vehicle miles	8,205
November	3	Average # of members	
December	1	per operation	7.66

Public Education - Mary Schmierer

CLMRG participated in the following activities during 1995:

Twelve "Hug a Tree" presentations to local schools, day care centers and scouts.

Safety and first aid talk to the Cub Scouts.

Girl Scout Mojave Primitive Encampment - a Tyrolean traverse for the girls to try and mountain safety.

Three rappelling demonstrations for the Boy Scouts.

Self-rescue techniques for the Sierra Club.

Mountain and hiking safety presentations for NAWC Youth Center students, James Monroe Junior High students, Boy Scouts and Mesquite High School students.

Mountaineering presentation to Kiwanis.

Jumaring demonstration at NAWC Youth Center Summer Program.

Total CLMRG person-hours: 166

Total presentation hours: 85

Total attendees: 4,898

First Aid - Dianne Rindt

Courses: CLMRG instructors taught four Red Cross CPR courses (Basic Life Support for the Professional Rescuer), and two wilderness first aid modules, for CLMRG members. Through these classes, 30 members were certified or recertified in CPR, and 26 members completed one or more of the first aid modules.

Equipment: Major equipment purchases for 1995 included upgrades to all six CPR mannekins, making effective cleaning much easier. We also purchased a second pair of oxygen cylinders, as a backup set.

Equipment - Mike Myers

New Equipment:

Two single frequency avalanche transceivers.

A portable generator to power portable outside lights.

Replaced all stainless steel brake bars with Titanium ones.

Selected and purchased two new winter tents.

Maintenance:

Installed a new heavy duty radiator with a high flow thermostat in our Jeep.

Painted the Hut exterior and bathroom and fixed the ragged portions of the roof overhangs and patched all the holes.

Installed an automatic tree watering system.

## Training - Dave Ganger

CLMRG personnel participated in 43 formal training exercises in 1995. Over 1100 person-hours of training were completed in this effort. This hour figure does not include hours expended in First Aid and CPR classes or on mountaineering and rock climbing trips. The following topics were included in the 1995 training schedule:

Emergency Locator Transmitter

Stretcher Raising and Lowering

Portable Radios

Sign Cutting

Navigation (Map, Compass, GPS)

Search and Rescue Case Studies

Base Radios and Antennas

Rock Recertification

Winter Skills

Wound Cleaning and irrigation

Ready Packs

Stretcher Rigging

Tracking

Dangerous Animals

Disaster Preparedness - floods

Helicopter Safety

Incident Command System

Technical Rock Skills

Winter Bivouacs

Stove Maintenance/Repair

First Aid Kits

## CALVIN AND HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## Summer Class - Linda Finco

This year we had a small, but committed summer class. There were 28 students who signed up for our annual Basic Mountaineering and Mountaineering Safety class. Of the 28 who started, 22 stuck through the whole seven weeks of lectures, belaying, rock climbing, two weekend trips in the Sierra, rappelling and the final exam. Also, the unusually abundant snow in the Sierra this year allowed the students to learn and practice ice ax arrests during our day and overnight trips (for no extra charge!!).

Committee members who put in a lot of work and deserve recognition were: Debbie Breitenstein, Tom Sakai, Randy Barker, Dianne Rindt, Kevin McCormick, Tom Roseman, Dave Ganger and Mike Renta.

In addition, a total of 29 CLMRG members participated in some way with the summer class.

The following is an approximate breakdown in person-hours spent on the class.

Preparation for the class, and summer class committee meetings:	120
Lectures-(excludes preparation time):	90
Rock climbing classes:	340
Weekend trips:	750
Total:	1,300 person hours

**1996 Officers and Committee Chairs**

President	Andrew Mitchell
Vice-president	Tom Sakai
Secretary	Annette Fournier
Treasurer	Werner Hueber
MRA Representative	Mike Myers
Qualification Committee	Daryl Hinman, Al Green & Tom Roseman
Equipment Committee	Werner Hueber
Quartermaster	Steve Florian
First Aid Committee	Dianne Rindt
Training Committee	Dave Ganger
Public Education	Mary Schmierer
Talus Pile	Carol Burge
Sheriff's Committee	Andrew Mitchell
Special Committees	
Training Wall	Scott Money Penny
ASTM	Dennis Burge
Summer Class	Ellen Schafhauser

**Letters**

January 17, 1996

The morning of September 17th I fell in an ice field above Meysan Lake on my way to Mt. LeConte. The fall was severe but my partner and I were able to get back to a lower lake where we fortunately met some people and they went for help. I crawled into my sleeping bag in great pain and waited. Later that evening around 11:00 pm some of you guys arrived and started to work on me. A second group arrived several hours later to relieve the first team. When day light arrived you guys guided in a medivac helicopter for me. Lone Pine Hospital worked on me and then decided to medivac me by airplane to San Bernardino Medical Center where a Catscan was available. I was in that hospital for 36 hours before they released me to my home in Simi Valley.

I suffered a slight skull fracture with a resulting concussion that lingered for about a month. The pain in my abdomen was not from rolling on my ice ax, but of swallowing a lot of blood from cuts in my mouth. Today I am about 90% with some lingering pain in my sternum area. This has been steadily improving as my bench press is going up. I expect a full recovery.

I thank you guys for rescuing me. I don't know what would have become of me otherwise. I hope I never need your services again, but it is nice to know that your group is there.

I am enclosing a check for \$250 to be used by the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group as you like.

Jim Fleckenstein [see Op95-16, Nov '95]

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**Climber's springtime proverb: A well-kept yard is a sign of a wasted life.**

## Scree

CAL Region MRA Winter Skills/Rescue Workshop; 1-3 March 1996 - Mike Myers

CLMRG hosted the tri-annual California Region Mountain Rescue Association Winter Rescue Re-accreditation held in the Glacier Lodge area.

Everyone from China Lake arrived either Friday morning or Friday night. The Friday morning arrivals hiked about 1 mile into the bowl area to assess the avalanche danger and to select possible areas for each of the workshop stations. George Duffey from Sierra Madre accompanied our group to assist in the assessment. Duffey is a snow ranger with the Forest Service and was a welcome addition.

Snow conditions turned out to be fantastic and we ran all the stations back in the bowl area, about 1/4 mile east of the big snow chutes. The stations presented were as follows:

1. Snow Anchors - BAMRU
2. Avalanche Assessment - CLMRG (Antonsen)
3. Avalanche Beacon Search - Sierra Madre
4. Avalanche Probe Search Methods - Sierra Madre
5. Emergency Snow Shelters Montrose/Edwards AFB/CLMRG (Buffum) - The Edwards people were there as part of Santa Clarita's Team.
6. Cross country snow travel - Everyone

There was a high level expertise at each station, and based on comments received, all of the stations presented were excellent.

Many teams were very unhappy with the requirement to wear avalanche beacons. Some were still grumbling about this requirement when they arrived Saturday. However Saturday afternoon, the south facing slopes warmed up and two of them released in quite large avalanche sluffs. No more negative comments were heard about the beacons.

With a 142 member turnout, thirteen of the fourteen Region teams were represented and re-accredited.

On Sunday, Al Green coordinated three stretcher problems with Debbie Breitenstein, Frank Buffum, and Mike Renta being victims. Each team provided six members to work the problems, and each problem was to be worked by two teams. Since we were using live victims (our own) we asked that only qualified members participate. China Lake was teamed with Inyo for our problem. The general rules were that everyone maintains radio silence, the victims were assumed to be uninjured, but mildly hypothermic, and all anchors had to be snow anchors (no trees or bushes).

Snow conditions were horrible for anchors, so each team had to really use their imagination to create anchors that would hold. We shoveled and packed snow for the better part of an hour to make the snow suitable for an anchor. Our lowering system consisted of a fluke, picket, and a ski to create a three-point load-distributing anchor. Our belay was made up of two flukes and a ski, also to a three-point load-distributing anchor. It took us quite awhile to get set up, but once Inyo lowered the victim to our location; we made the transition very smoothly, and continued the lowering.

By 1100 on Sunday, all the teams were finished with their problems. We held a debrief in front of Glacier Lodge, then packed up and came home.

We owe the Inyo team a lot of thanks for handling the parking and shuttling teams in and out. Inyo also worked a great deal behind the scenes during the two weeks prior to the workshop.

The White Mountain Ranger District should also be commended for their efforts in working with us. They did everything in their power to assure that we could use the resources within their district.

CLMRG members taking part in this workshop were: Chris Antonsen, Arun Jain, Debbie Breitenstein, Ellen Schafhauser, Frank Buffum, Tom Sakai - Workshop Safety Officer, Bill Ferguson - Medical Officer, Walter Runkle, Linda Finco, Mike Renta, Steve Florian, Mike Myers - Workshop Chairman, Dave Ganger, Scott Moneypenny, Al Green, Andrew Mitchell, Werner Hueber

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On March 30, several CLMRG members worked with BLM personnel to clean unsightly burn marks from some of the boulders and to pick up many bags of trash at the Wagon Wheel bouldering area. This area is truly multiple use - by dirt bikers, campers and rock climbers - and this time of year wildflower watchers. We hope that everyone who enjoys this beautiful area will also decide to help keep it clean.

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Ever wonder how wind chill is calculated? The LA Times published this equation:

$$W=33-[(10.45 + 10 \text{ SQRT}(V) - V)(33-T)/ 22.04]$$

where W = Wind chill C, T = air temp C, V = wind speed in m/sec, all temps in Celsius.

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The Talus Pile is edited by Carol Burge



"OK, we've got our nylon jackets and backpacks, our Neoprene and Kevlar hiking shoes, our pheromone-based insect repellent, our electronic direction finders and cellular telephone—now it's back to nature!"