



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

A Volunteer Organization Dedicated to Saving Lives Through Rescue and Mountain Safety Education

July 2001

The next meeting will be at the Westgate Fire Hall at 7:00P.M. on July 10. Training will be: High Altitude Rescues.

REPORTS of Chairman, Officers, Coordinators, and Committees:

TREASURER:

All bills are paid and the unit funds are adequate

TRAINING:

Spring MRA meeting 2001

JUST PAST:

The second helo training at Grey Field was a great success. There was some actual flying of helicopters encountered.

Meeting Training:

Mission Protocols were discussed. Paul Gelineau, Patrick McAuliffe, Roger Beckett, Dale Boyle, Greg Barron, & Mac MacDowell spoke on a variety of subjects related to mission activities.

UPCOMING:

7-21-01 Mock Mission - Lake Constance Trail. A call out will be made and it will be treated just like a normal mission. ONP personnel will be participating. Be prepared to respond.

MEMBERSHIP:

The unit has two new members. Barry Pealstrom & Ron Jackson were voted in by the membership as Rescue Support. Welcome to OMR.

PUBLICITY:

Deb Leg is in the process of updating the OMR display boards. Kids day was a resounding success. See article.

EQUIPMENT:

trucks went well. However, the mystery of the missing edge rollers has



The small persons again triumph under Tom's direction.

yet to be solved. I you have info on them please contact Sarah.

During the last meeting Tony DiBenedetto and Dick Waldo groomed the hand held radios in preparation for the upcoming rescue season.

TRUCKS:

Efforts continue toward the purchase of a new truck. Pricing has been done and grants are being pursued.

MISSIONS

I received a call from Crystal at about 1030 hrs. On Wed. Morning asking if I was going on the mission for two injured climbers on Mt. Baker. I had not received the page, so she gave me the message. I called Roger and got the rest of the details. I told Roger I was at work in Seattle, but could be back in town at 1300 hrs. Roger appointed me as O.L., and continued his call out. Realizing the ferry would arrive in Bremerton at 1245

hrs. Crystal was in charge of packing for both of us. Roger dropped off the information at our house, so from the ferry I was able to call Crystal and find out who else was going. Members attending where: L. Bemis, J. Ellsworth, G. Daughtry, C. McAuliffe, P. McAuliffe (O.L.).

Crystal and I departed the fire hall @ 1300 hrs to pick up Bemis @ the Park & Ride across from Cennex. From there we picked up Ellsworth @ Albertson's and headed for the 2:15 ferry out of Kingston. Daughtry was to meet up with us in Sedro Wooley.

On the approach to SAR Base we listened to the Coast Guard pilot who was ~~subject to a mission party where the~~ the Navy Skikorsky on standby at Whidbey was sent to the scene. In the interim we arrived at the SAR Base off of Baker Lk. Road at about 1730 hrs.

I met with Scott Huso the Deputy Sheriff for Whatcom Co. the following is a synopsis of the briefing I received from

Huso;

Genone and Folk are both experienced climbers that started off on the standard Coleman Route on the North side of Mt. Baker around Fri morning. Upon searching that side, their car was found at the end of Heliatrope (SP) road. The two climber's packs were also found on the Coleman Route. Mid morning on Wednesday the two climbers stumbled across a camp set up by Alpine Ascent Intl. on one of their trips up the South Side at approx. 5500'. In the AAI camp are two physicians and a paramedic who are treating the climbers for hypothermia, frostbite and snow blindness. The climbers evidentially got lost in a whiteout, crossed four glaciers roped up with out gear for the past four days and ended up on this side of the mountain. At that time there was twenty rescue members in the field staged at different altitudes to help if a carry out was needed. We were requested to wait for ten to fifteen minutes to see if a heli winch operation would be possible, if not we were to head up to meet the carry out party.

By this time the Navy had arrived on scene, flew back down lower to dump fuel, do some power tests, then came back and hoisted to the to climbers, with a flight directly to Skagit Valley General Hospital at 1750 hrs.

We stayed a bit longer and talked with the other members in the base area, then drove back into town to catch a 8:40 ferry out of Kingston. All members were back home at around 2200 hrs.

Patrick McAuliffe

5 OMR members, 470 Miles, 62.5 Hours from page out.

Some side notes:

1. Scott Huso liked are OMR Id badges very much, in fact after introducing himself to me, his next comment was " I like your badge, very professional way of IDing yourself, all units should incorporate these".
2. There was no presence by Tacoma or Seattle , Bellingham, Skagit, Everett, Snohomish, Whatcom and OMR were the only Mountain Rescue units present. ESAR and the 4wd search groups had a presence as well.
3. Scott and Bellingham coordinators

expressed their thanks multiple times to us, which we replied we are always available for inter-unit support.

4. Channel 5 News helicopter seemed to again help out with the locating of the subjects.

5. The debriefing of the climbers should be interesting.

6. Even though it was a 4.5 hour trip up, one hour at base and 4.5 hour trip home it was a pleasant mission with our unit showing support, even if we didn't do anything.

MRA

The spring meeting of the Mountain Rescue Association was held at Snoqualmie Pass, in the Alpenthal ski center during June 22, 23 and 24, hosted by Seattle Mountain Rescue. This gathering brought representatives of Mountain Rescue units from all over the United States, Canada and Europe for a weekend of seminars, meetings, hands-on practice and socialization. Attending the meeting for Olympic Mountain Rescue were Jim Groh, Mac MacDowell, Deb Legg, Greg Barron, Cass Whalen, TammyRae Gelineau and Paul Gelineau. During Friday, OMR folks attended several seminars including carabiner strength testing and prussic slipping. They also participated in a panel discussion concerning rescue cost reimbursement. This discussion brought representatives from Rainier National Park, the head of the National Park SAR division and several Mountain Rescue groups and the National MRA organization. Friday evening featured a raffle for several donated items from outdoor manufactures, such as Conterra, SMC and REI. Ice axes, packs and parkas were given to the lucky winners and Paul walked away with several tee shirts, one of which was donated to a less fortunate OMR members who couldn't seem to draw a lucky ticket. The evening also



Paula Rides the litter

featured free Red Hook Ale and fermented grape juice of the white and red variety. Needless to say, spirits were high and the mood light. The evening's featured speaker was Wolf Bauer, one of the MRA's founding members. Saturday, attendees could select several seminars through out the day in which to participate. Among those OMR folks took advantage of were, topographic map software, avalanche beacon uses, helicopter familiarization, rigging ~~climbing and rope rescue~~ and A banquet was held Saturday evening featuring BBQ salmon and chicken after which we gathered to hear Tom Hornbine speak of his personal climbing history. He spoke of the Everest West Ridge climb in 1963 with Willie Unsold, his reminiscence of friendship with Willie and his start in mountaineering and Mountain Rescue. This held special significance for me as his book; Everest The West Ridge was the catalyst that launched me on my mountaineering career. cohesiveness, cooperation and humor. The other high light of the evening was an assemblage of all the living past MRA presidents and MRA founders. The conference focused on MRA history and the organization's beginnings. This conference afforded everyone with the opportunity to learn of the organization's rich history. OMR received a plaque recognizing our unit as one of the three founding MRA units in 1957. A fact in which we can all feel proud. I even had the chance to over hear a conversation about OMR's own former

Chairman Brad Albro and his colorful contributions to past MRA conferences. Moreover, just as importantly it provided us with the chance to meet and get to know MRA members from around the state and from around the country. My thanks to all those OMR folks who attended the conference.

Paul Gelineau

KIDS DAY

Tom Banks and Jim Groh represented OMR at Kid's Day on Saturday, June 9, 2001. The event, hosted by Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue, was attended by lots of kids and their parents. Tom prepared a "Northwest Hiking and Backpacking Checklist" which included a list of gear and safety tips: "Always carry the Ten Essentials, so if hurt, you could spend the night out and survive. Tell a responsible person of your travel plans, alternate routes, and expected time of return. Avoid traveling alone. If lost, stay put and wait." About 125 families or individuals visited the OMR truck and participated in the BIG EVENT: the 9-to-1 mechanical advantage, Olympic Mountain Rescue "Tug-O-War." Small people on one side, big people on the other. Funny thing: the small people always won! A few folks figured out that the small people "had the OMR truck on their side." Sure, but it wasn't moving, or anything. It just happened to anchor the small people's side.

What gives? Hmm ... the advantage of having an anchor and some pulleys with'ya.

Tom led the first half of the day, Jim took the second. Tours of the White Truck were given; flight helmets were tried on; souvenir ink stamps were provided to the kids' passports; hiking checklists (described above) were distributed. The local cable channel came by and did some quick on-camera interviews at day's end.

For those of you that couldn't partake this time, I'd recommend this experience next year. It's great P.R. for the club, and -- best of all, of course -- you get to have fun with our gear. You also come away with the satisfaction of having raised awareness about mountain safety through distributing literature and providing personal contact

with our group. Several adults asked about joining OMR. I gave them my phone number and Email address. With luck, we'll see one or two of them at an upcoming meeting.

Tom Banks

Jim Adds:

Additionally, I think Tom would agree with me that there were a couple other most valuable assistants to us during the day. Tom's friend Sherry ably assisted him during his shift and my son Cameron took on a multitude of tasks to assist my hectic shift. A couple other OMR volunteers would have been a bonus but I think we did an admirable job and attracted considerable community interest. And also thanks to the John Ellsworth family for appearing at the end of the day to assist with the display takedown.

Thinking about how much funding the Kitsap community generously grants us each year, it seems like an annual 6 hour program like this a pretty minimal pay back on our part. *Jim*

OMR WEB SITE

The OMR website has been moved to a new server. Current access to the members section will require the use of a user id name. Please use the name "rescue". The password is the same as before. The next action on the site is to set up individual password protection. I will keep you posted. *Barron*

LEGG OFF TO KOREA

Deborah Legg, our energetic PR person, is off to Korea for a year of teaching English. Thank you Deb for your hard work and we look forward to your return next August

OMR PICNIC

The date previously published is incorrect. The OMR Picnic will be **September 22, at Salsbury State Park.** This park is located just north of the Kitsap side of the Hood Canal Bridge. It offers very nice facilities (including a shower) and superb views. It is often a great site for kites and windsurfing and usually good for boats and waterskiing. The lee side of the bridge is often very smooth. There are rumors of a revival of full contact volleyball.

T SHIRTS

Ann has restocked the OMR T Shirt supply and now has a good selection of styles and sizes. See Ann for your OMR logo items (shirts, patches, caps, & etc.) .