



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

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

September 2001

The next meeting will be at the Westgate Fire Hall on Sept. 11 at 7:00P.M. Training will be: GPS

REPORTS of Chairman, Officers, Coordinators, and Committees:

TRAINING:

UPCOMING:

Glacier Training/ Ice climbing 9-15-01

Depart from Paradise Parking lot at 08:00. One day of ice technique on the seracs of the lower Nisqually Glacier. Note: If there is enough interest the event could be extended to two day. In order for there to be a two day event, you must contact Steve Leslie and commit to two days soon.

Review ice climbing in Freedom of the Hills or Climbing Ice by Chounaird. Bring: two tools, crampons, harness, helmet, ice screws if you have them, pickets if you have them, glacier travel gear. Expect a long day as the lower glacier is difficult, due to a low snow year. Contact Steve Leslie as soon as possible.



Packing up for the Staircase search at the ranger station

MISSIONS
OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE
2001 MISSION REPORT

Mission No: 2001-6

Date: July

Location: South Fork, Skokomish river, Steel Bridge, Mason County

Type: Rescue

Personnel: (Field team) Paul Gelineau, O.L., Ron Jackson, Christopher Claesson. (In-town coordination) Roger Beckett, Jim Groh
OMR was called at 1530 by the State DEM office with word that Mason Co needed help at the Steel Bridge. Beckett contacted the Mason Co DEM to find out that a person had been reported near the steel bridge on the steep canyon wall of the S. Fork, Skokomish River unable to proceed up or down. The OMR hasty team was able to get to Westgate in less than one hour but before other members were contacted, Mason DEM called and informed that the

mission was cancelled. The OMR team was contacted for a turn around on the mission just as they were leaving Bremerton. The Mason Co Deputy, upon arriving at the steel bridge had been unable to locate the person calling in the situation and also had been unable to get a voice response from any one located in the river canyon. The emergency call was being treated as a prank call.
Total Personnel: 4 (3 in the field team)
Total Hours: 14
Total Mileage: 104
OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE
2001 MISSION REPORT
Mission No: 2001-7 (01-2154)
Date: August 17



Lake Cushman looking down the Skokomish (from the back seat)

Location: Mt Ellinor, Mason County
Type: Rescue

Personnel: (Field team) Paul Gelineau, O.L., Mac MacDowell, Loring Bemis, Richard Waldo, Debbie Stewart, Duane Stewart, Willie Knoepfle (In-town standby) Cass Whalen, John Stieber, Greg Barron. (In-town coordination) Roger Beckett, Jim Groh
A call from the State DEM via the answering service at 1415 got this mission started. Because of ongoing fire coordination at the State level the message was to contact Mason Co for rescue support. Beckett contacted the county coordinator, Sandy and learned that a 55-year-old male hiker had been heard by other hikers calling for help. The man was off the trail in a meadow about 2.5 miles from the Ellinor trail head.

Mason County SAR dispatched the Communications Van to the trailhead with support personnel. Mason County SAR Deputy Kevin Potts, was contacted by Beckett and was advised of the OMR team arrival times. Potts was able to provide the latest available

info on location of the subject (Mr. Skip Dean) and medical condition. Groh was contacted and he assisted with the pager callout and other details.

Gelineau was the Operations Leader for this mission. He met MacDowell and Waldo at the fire hall at 1600 and proceeded in the OMR truck to the SAR base at the upper Ellinor trailhead. D & D Stewart drove own vehicle to base. Bemis was the first available person and was dispatched to help the Potts coordinate.

Knoepfle responded with his medical kit and arrived at base shortly after the others.. OMR truck arrived on scene at 1700 upper Ellinor trail head. Mason County SAR had dispatched an advanced party of three to locate the subject. They reported the male, 55 years old, had a history of stroke and heart attack. Subject had departed on a day hike Thursday, 8/16, summited and then became disoriented on the way down, possibly due to medical condition. Subject went off trail and became lost and decided to remain in one spot for

the night.

Friday, approximately noon, two hikers heard subject calling for help and found him in a semi-lucid state. They called 911 on cell phone, which activated the Mason County SAR system. A Tacoma Fire Dept EMT was hiking and also responded, providing initial medical assessment to Mason County SAR personnel.

The subject was dehydrated and hungry. He carried no pack, no extra clothing, minimal food and water. He was not prepared to spend the night. He also did not have his medications with him, which led to his disoriented, weak condition.

Food and water were provided to subject by hikers,

which led to improvement in his condition such that he was able to start proceeding down trail with assistance from SAR personnel. OMR team Gelineau, Bemis and MacDowell proceeded up trail at 1730 with litter and wheel. Second OMR team, D & D Stewart and Waldo proceeded up trail at 1800 with medical equipment. Both teams met with Mason County team, subject and Tacoma FD EMT at 1900. OMR O.L. assumed overall mission control. Vital signs were taken and electrolyte and food were provided to subject. The subject's condition had improved such that he was able, with assistance from the rescue team to proceed slowly down trail under his own power. Blood pressure and pulse rate were checked periodically. The litter was kept with team in case it was needed.

Subject and team reached SAR Base at trail head at 2100 where subject was turned over to Mason County SAR Deputy. Knoepfle remained at SAR Base and performed a complete medical assessment at the request of

the Deputy.

OMR personnel were dismissed at 2130 and the team arrived home about 2330.

evacuation was necessary. Subject was in stable condition but needed assistance down the trail. He was rigged with a harness and webbing, as a leash, in the event he may stumble. All volunteer personnel and subject arrive at the trailhead at 9:00 pm. Willy checked subject's vitals and then was released to the Deputy for transportation to subject's home.

Sunday, August 19, 2001

Staircase Mission # 01-2172

Standby team Duane Stewart, OL and Debbie Stewart received call from Roger at 3:00 pm. ONP needed 8 people for search assistance on the O'Neil Trail (west side of Skokomish River). 48 year old man was overdue from a day hike on Saturday. He planned to hike the O'Neil Trail to Big Log and then loop back to Staircase on the main trail. This O'Neil Trail is primitive and route finding difficult.

A page went out with response from Paul Gelineau, Patrick & Crystal McAuliffe, Willy Knoepfle, Jim Groh, Ron Jackson who proceeded to Staircase ranger station. John Steiber, Ann Theisen, Sarah Armstrong, Dick Waldo & Mac McDowell remained in town on standby. ONP had search teams and helicopter support in the field on Sunday with no clues. Some of the park personnel were left in the field overnight. ONP used Sunday evening to re-group and organize the various search teams. Monday at 7:00 am teams were given a briefing and assignments as follows –

Subject profile – Experienced hiker in good physical condition. Did many hikes by himself. He did not have overnight gear and unclear as to how much food. Minimal clothing. Asthmatic condition for which he did not have his daily medication to combat seizures.

Helicopter, with Park personnel, search for possible sight of camp

smoke.

Dog Team 1 with OMR Patrick & Crystal McAuliffe hike to Four Stream over to Jumbo's Leap and then up toward Five Stream.

OMR Tech Team 1 with Paul Gelineau, Duane & Debbie Stewart, & Willy Knoepfle hike to Spike Camp. Search knoll and cliffs west to mouth of Six Stream.

Dog Team 2 with OMR Jim Groh & Ron Jackson fly to Camp Pleasant to search Seven Stream south to Six Stream. Try to cross Six Stream and work to Five Stream and tie in with Dog Team 1. Turnaround at 3:00 pm and camp at Six Stream.

Various park personnel assigned to other areas for search & containment.

Subject was spotted by helicopter in Six Stream at approximately 12:00 pm. He was standing and waving his arms. ONP prepared to drop supplies to subject if landing was not an option. Helicopter did land in the creek to pick up subject and transport to Staircase. KIRO television and family members were waiting for his arrival. OMR team was debriefed and released at 2:30 pm.



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.

Newsletter Submissions

Information to the newsletter may be submitted by US Mail (POBox 376 Bremerton Wa 98337), email (dboyle@web-o.net), voice mail (360-792-1714), or conversation with editor. Dead line is two weeks prior to the general meeting.

The following information is solicited - Mission reports, Trip reports, Equipment reviews, Book reports, Humor, Historical info., and Pictures of any and all OMR persons

engaged in outdoor activity .