



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

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

August 2002

THERE IS NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN AUGUST. ENJOY!!

REPORTS of Chairman, Officers,
Coordinators, and Committees:

TRAINING:

JUST PAST: A Unit climb and the
mock mission were on the schedule.

Meeting Training:

Leslie presented high altitude training.
A comprehensive look at tools and
tactics for the high mountain.

UPCOMING:

August 16 & 17 (times and dates will
be adjusted to fit the group) Glacier
Rescue/Ice Climbing. Contact Steve
Leslie

PUBLICITY:

August 12th Paul will be
speaking to the Peninsula Wilderness
Club. Come and assist this community
support building endeavor.

The **Kitsap County Fair** is
coming up the third week of August.
This has always been a great
opportunity to meet and greet the
public, which helps build support for
the unit. Members are encouraged to
get involved in this effort. Contact
Deb Legg to get involved in this
excellent public relations event.

TRUCKS:

The White Truck is back from
the shop. The problem was a sensor in
the transmission that was failing. It is
now repaired and ready to roll.

PICNIC

The OMR Picnic will be held
on Friday, August 16 at Salisbury
Point State Park. This park is located
just north of the east end of the Hood
Canal Bridge.



Modeling the Flight suit in the hurry up and wait mode.

OMR BADGES

If you need an OMR Photo ID
Badge, please come to the September
meeting ready to have your picture
taken.

MISSIONS

Mission No: 2002-6 (02-1625)

Date: July 4-5

Location: **O'Neil Pass area, Olympic
National Park**

Personnel: (Field team) John Stieber
(OL), Mark Hendrickson, John
Ellsworth, Tod Lokey, Barry Pealstrom,
Ron Jackson, Patrick McAuliffe, Crystal
McAuliffe, Mac Macdowell, Chris
Claesson and Frank Chapin (In Town)
Roger Beckett Steve Chaffee, ONP
ranger from Hoodspport was in contact
with Beckett at 1130 hrs on the 4th with a
"heads-up" that a search was getting
underway in the Park for an overdue
hiker. If the subject did not show by the
end of the day it was likely that OMR

would be called. Beckett contacted
Stieber, who was the O.L. for the
weekend who contacted his team of
Ellsworth and Jackson. Beckett
contacted the others during the afternoon
to establish a Standby Team. That
official callout came from the Park EOC
about 1900 hrs and those on Standby
were notified of a 0600 departure from
Westgate.

Stieber reports:

We left the fire hall shortly after 0600, to
meet with ONP at the Hoodspport Ranger
Station. Steve Chaffee handed out a very
detailed description sheet of the subject,
Sean Michael Izzarone, 28 yr, 6'4",
250+#. He had some hiking experience
with many miles covered on the
Appalachian Trail and in Yosemite.
However, he had not done any over snow
travel. His gear was, for the most part,
adequate, minus items used in snow. He



Frank demonstrates mastery of a key rescue skill.

also did not have a compass or a map of the area. His route was to start at the Duckabush trail head to O'Neil Pass to Enchanted Valley and out at Graves Creek. As in the past, he was hiking solo, last seen 2.5 miles up the Duckabush Trail. We were instructed to break into 2 person teams and that we would be searching on our own, vice with a ranger as in the past. The plan was to insert the teams via helicopter and that they would stay in the field overnight. Frank Chapin was to act as a spotter for one of the helicopters and be Base OL for OMR. One person from Tacoma Mtn Rescue tagged on with one of our teams. There were also 2 search dog teams available. In all there were 7 teams in the field. 4 teams were under branch leader 1, Art Sanderson of ONP. The other 3 teams were under branch leader 2, John Stieber of OMR. The dog teams were held back until some definite clues were found. The search covered the area from O'Neil Pass to Anderson Pass to La Crosse Pass, with some searching in the drainages to the south. Containment boundary camps were set on the Duckabush trail 8 miles in, on the Skokomish trail at Big Log Camp and on the Quinault Trail at the summer ranger station. Team insertion was slow because only one of the two helicopters had snow skids. Round trip time for the helicopter was approx. 25 minutes. Four teams were placed at O'Neil Pass, one team at La Crosse Pass to search down to the Duckabush trail and one team was to go to Anderson Pass to search towards La Crosse Pass. The teams at O'Neil Pass

unable to come over for an aerial view, they began to follow the tracks. Meanwhile the team at La Crosse Pass began their assignment searching down towards the Duckabush trail. At this time, another team from O'Neil Pass, farther out reported finding more tracks leading down into one of the drainages. The prints found earlier appeared to head in this general direction. So the decision was made to bring in the search dogs. Any teams that had not been inserted at this time were put on hold pending any hits by the dogs. One of the helicopters was brought over and began an aerial search. After a short period, the helicopter spotted a large HELP sign written in the snow with an arrow pointing down into one of the drainages. This message was constructed out of branches. It was then decided to redirect teams to this area. The team on standby at the LZ was now to be inserted on the Quinault River on the south side across from the containment camp, as soon as the dogs had been inserted. Just as the last team was getting ready to board the helicopter the word came that the subject had walked into the containment camp on the Quinault River. The subject was well and insisted on walking out to Graves Creek to be picked up by his friends. That is until he found out that the road to Graves Creek was closed. With the day waning the helicopter began bringing the teams out of the field. The pilot was very near his time limit for the day when the last team was flown out. We were debriefed and released back at

were to search the drainages and the west side of Hart and Marmot lakes. Shortly after being inserted at O'Neil Pass, one of the teams reported finding a single set of foot prints in the snow. With the helicopter

Hoodsport, with profound thanks from ONP on a job well done. All teams were back home by 2200 hrs. And this by email from Ranger Mike Danisiewicz:

Sean made it up just over O'Neil Pass. He slipped on snow and slid a couple of hundred feet below the trail. With lack of an ice axe and improper foot wear, he was unable to get back up the trail. I think at that point he decided he was in trouble. He camped out at the spot and hoped to be rescued. On Wed he was getting low on fuel (to melt snow) and decided to make a bee line for the Quinault. This is when he left the "HELP" and headed down Upper O'Neil Creek. He spent a night on a ledge in the drainage, the next day he made it down to the Quinault and crossed somewhere near Pyrites Ck. He reached our containment at O'Neil Camp and hiked out. He expressed appreciation for our effort. This was passed on from Ranger Snure of the Quinault. Thanks for coming out. Nice to see all the familiar faces!

by Roger Beckett and John Stieber

Total Personnel: 12 Total Hours: 235
Total Mileage: 545

D. E. M. CARDS

All members are responsible for maintaining a current DEM card. If you are nearing expiration (allow three months) get the paperwork from Steve Leslie and mail it in. Two pictures are required. A signature **only** is required on the card itself. If you want, to you can stop by the DEM (small house next to CenCom in Bremerton) and they will take your picture for you.

LESSONS LEARNED

This section is devoted to repeatedly learned lessons.

Always discuss containment with whomever is running the operation.