



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

A volunteer organization dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education
December 2004

Election Time

It is time again to vote on who will be the selected for the two vacated positions on the board. Steve Leslie has accepted a nomination to run again. Two other have been nominated as well. Those are Shawn Herndon and Andy Graham. If you have anyone else that you would like to see on the board then come to the December meeting and nominate them. If you cannot make it, contact one of the board members or someone who will be going to the meeting to let them know which person you would like on the board. This is also the month that nominees will be voted on by the general membership, who attend the meeting. If you think that things should be run differently, then come on down and be heard, or maybe run for one of the positions.

Meeting

Next meeting : Tuesday, December 14; Social and slide show.

Training

Upcoming : There is no training scheduled for December

Missions

There were no new missions for November as of this printing.

OMR Annual Banquet

Another year has come and gone and it is time for the annual OMR banquet. This year the banquet will be held at the banquet hall in the student center, at Olympic College. While not yet set in stone the cost per person will be approximately \$18. The date is to be Saturday, January 15. There will be a social hour starting at 5:00PM, followed by dinner at 6:00PM. Somewhere around 7:00PM general announcements will be made and a guest speaker will talk to the group. The two choices for dinner will be a chicken dish and a salmon dish. A flier will be mailed out to the group within the next couple of weeks, specifying all of the details. It is very important that you RSVP. Contact John Stieber or one of the board and let us know if you are coming and if you plan to bring anyone. This will keep the costs to the group down to minimum. Payment will be made at the door. This is a good chance to get out and rub elbows with other members, someplace other than trainings or missions. I hope to see all of you there.



A word from the Chairman

As another year ends, I felt it appropriate to touch on some of the high lights of 2004.

The rescue season started right off the bat with the year's first mission on the 3rd of January involving OMR participation, searching for the skier missing from the Alpental ski area. While the subject wasn't located that day, fortunately he was found late the next day.

While this year didn't bring many missions, each one was the most important event in the lives of those we were asked to help.

We welcomed several new members into our ranks and 2004 saw the promotion of several members to the Rescue category. Congratulations to Andy Graham, Sarah Armstrong, Deb Legg, Christopher Claesson, Shawn Herndon and John Ellsworth.

Our 2004 banquet was a resounding success and underscored our long and rich history as a Mountain Rescue unit thanks to Keith Spencer's historical presentation. OMR was there at the beginning of Mountain Rescue and 50 years later, we're still going strong. Thanks to Deb. Legg and Ann Richey for all their hard work in organizing the event.

Christopher Claesson and Andy Graham were the first two OMR members to attend Rigging For Rescue at the Ouray Colorado venue. Their successful completion of the course provides your unit with two more rigging instructors maintaining OMR's tradition of excellence in technical rope rigging.

The Guide Book Committee continues to work on the 4th edition to the Climber's Guide to the Olympics and is nearing completion of a great effort. Everyone involved has devoted substantial time and effort to ensure this edition will be successful. Two new sections have been added, Alpine Rock and Sport and Crag Routes. John Myers (Alpine Rock) and Dale Boyle (Sport and Crag Routes) have made a major effort and really deserve a thanks from all of us. In addition, Tony DiBenedetto has practically re-written the section on the Bailey Range traverse. Your Guide Book Committee consists of: Keith Spencer (Chair), Roger Beckett, Jim Groh, Dale Boyle, Tony DiBenedetto, Kent Heathershaw, John Myers, George Sainsbury, Rich Olsen & Paul Gelin-eau. A special thanks is also extended to Jan Spencer for her gracious hospitality.

I'd like to express my appreciation to your Board of Directors for their continued commitment to the "business" end of OMR. Dale Boyle, Vice-Chair; Greg Barron, Treasurer; Sarah Armstrong, Secretary; Steve Leslie, Membership; John Stieber, News Letter.

Most importantly, I'd like to say thanks to all of you. For your steadfast commitment to making OMR the best Mountain Rescue unit. Your willingness to head out at the call, in any weather, at any time, to put your self in harm's way for the benefit of others is what we're all about and you do your self proud.

Thanks,
Paul G.

December Meeting

Every December, the monthly meeting is a chance for the membership to get together and discuss what has happened over the course of the year, share stories and relax. Beyond a few general announcements, there is no training or serious matters to attend to. This year is no different. Everyone is invited to come and bring their favorite treat. The group will be providing egnog and soda. There is a video that will

be shown at this year's meeting. The video is The story of the Denny Creek Climbing Rangers. Who are based out of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. So come on down, share some stories and enjoy the video. It is always an enjoyable experience for those who attend.

Winter Standby

With Christmas almost upon us, it is easy to forget about winter standby up at Hurricane ridge. Included with this newsletter is the updated version of the available weekends. This year is slightly different than in years past. Understanding that this is a volunteer organization and that people have other lives to attend to, personnel are not required to stay up for the entire weekend. While staying for the full weekend is preferable, you can now sign up for just one day of the weekend. Of course if you are there for only one day you will miss out on staying up at the lodge and having it to yourselves. Another item that has changed is that we are no longer requiring an OL to be up on each weekend. As long as there are two people up there that will be acceptable. If you are electing to be there for only one day, please try to make it for Sunday. This way you can give an impromptu training with the park. This is not to be a major training. Rather it is more to refresh everyone's memory and can cover anything from snow anchors to patient packaging.

A quick note on signing in. We have a mission number for those of us who go up to the Ridge. In case something happens you will be covered. The sign in sheets are located next to our cache in the lodge.

The VIP passes for the park will be given out again this year, but only to those of us who spend at least sixteen hours on patrol during the weekends. This will be tracked by the sign in sheets. This is the agreement between the Park and OMR. However, do you really need an excuse to be up in the mountains for the entire weekend?

While our newer members, that haven't been up for standby yet, are encouraged to go up. It is recommended that you go up with someone who knows the ropes and procedures, so he/she can show you around, for your first time up.

If you have any questions or have a weekend that you want to sign up for, please give John Stieber a call at 360-830-0914 or e-mail him at janddstieber@earthlink.net. As you can see there are plenty of prime weekend spots available for everyone to sign up. Hope to see you all up at the Ridge.

And The Survey Says . . .

As promised the survey results will be going out later this month. While I have been told that a 40% return on a survey is considered excellent, I have to admit that I personally rather amazed that we did not get more back. Considering how many people say that training is not up to par. However, the results are in and you will be getting them, in a couple of weeks.

Included in the results are any comments that you may have put in.

While there were a great many good comments, there is one thing that you as a rescuer should remember. While the trainings do tend to get a bit repetitive, you will only get out of the training what you are willing to put into it.



Mt. Steel from Home Sweet Home