



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

A volunteer organization dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education
July 2005

Missions

Mission No: 2005-4 (DEM 05-1358)

Date: June 1

Location: Mount Pugh, Snohomish County

Type: Rescue (turn around)

Personnel: (Field Team) John Ellsworth (OL), Dick Waldo, Anthony Vietti (In-Town) Roger Beckett

OMR was called to assist (see news accounts below) and the truck left the fire station at 0430 to catch the 0530 Kingston-Edmonds ferry. The team was turned around about 0700 when near Arlington as the missing hiker had been rescued by those on site.

Total Personnel: 4

Total Hours: 19

Total Mileage: 120

From local news accounts:

Volunteers with Skagit and Snohomish counties Search and Rescue groups located a 52-year-old Bellevue man this morning, stranded on a ledge on Mount Pugh in Snohomish County. Rescuers found the hiker around 7 a.m. today and were helping him down the mountain, Skagit sheriff's deputies said. The hiker's name was not released by deputies, and his condition wasn't available to the media this morning. Searchers located his 1999 Ford Explorer parked at the Mount Pugh trailhead around 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, deputies said. The mountain is about six miles south of Darrington. The man had been reported as missing Monday after an acquaintance called police the morning after receiving a cellular phone call from the hiker. The hiker told his friend Sunday that he was unable to make it down the mountain, deputies said. Then, the connection was lost, deputies said. A few minutes later the missing hiker called again and started to leave a mes-

Missions continued on page 2

Meeting

Next meeting : Tuesday, July 12th. Highline Fundamentals, Instructors : Shawn Herndon and Sarah Armstrong.

This will be an informative lecture on the setup and use of highlines. Sarah and Shawn recently attend Rigging for Rescue in Canada and will undoubtedly have new information concerning highline use and safety.

Training

Upcoming training : July 16th, River Pick Off, Instructor Greg Barron. This training will be a scenario based training in a new area and will entail picking a subject off of a rock or ledge in a river. The exact area will be announced at the July meeting.

A Final Farewell

Steve Leslie and Greg Barron recently represented Olympic Mountain Rescue (OMR) at Funeral Services for Firefighter Mike Beery from East Jefferson Fire Rescue in Chimacum, WA. Mike died on June 10th, 2005 from a fall on Gibraltar Ledges route on Mount Rainier. The funeral services were very well attended by all local fire departments and Olympic National Park. The OMR truck participated in a procession of emergency vehicles from Chimacum to Sequim for the services and then on to the Blue Mountain Cemetery. OMR also made a contribution to the Berry family fund. Mike is survived by his wife and two children.

Missions continued from page 1

sage before the connection faded. The call helped deputies narrow the search area by determining which cellular tower was used to receive the call.

Mission No: 2005-5 (DEM 05-1476)

Date: June 10

Location: Pacific Crest Trail, Lewis County

Type: Search

Personnel: (Field Team) John Stieber (OL), Dick Waldo (In-Town) Roger Beckett, Jim Groh

OMR was called by the State DEM office just after midnight requesting a rescue team to help Lewis Co search for a missing hiker on the PCT north of Mt Adams. The team left Bremerton at 0500 to meet at Search Base at Packwood on Highway 12. By 0845 they were in an Army National Guard Blackhawk headed for the search in a remote part of the Goat Rocks Wilderness area. The helo load of 10 searchers and gear were sent to look in the headwaters of the Klickitat River on the East side of the Pacific Crest Trail. Other searchers spotted the hiker in the early afternoon and the OMR team and others were airlifted back to Packwood, arriving about 1530. After a debriefing with the sheriff they headed back home.

Total Personnel: 4

Total Hours: 35

Total Mileage: 370

From local news accounts:

A search for a hiker missing in the Goat Rocks Wilderness near White Pass in Lewis County, Wash., ended Friday afternoon after crews found the man. Yisrael Lax from Houston, Texas was in good condition when searchers found him about two miles where he became lost along the Pacific Coast Trail. He was reportedly hiking out with ground searchers who found him. The 18-year-old became separated from a group hiking from Walupt Lake to White Pass and was last seen Wednesday before noon. This is a very rugged wilderness area inaccessible to motorized vehicles.

The group is associated with the Salvation Army's

Twelve-Step Club, which conducts yearly wilderness trips.

Mission No: 2005-6 (DEM 05-1595)

Date: June 23

Location: Vesper Peak, Snohomish County

Type: Search

Personnel: (Field Team) Steve Leslie (OL), Dick Waldo, Nathan Crossett (In-Town) Roger Beckett

A call for support was received at 2205 on the 22ed to help look for two missing climber/hikers on Vesper Peak. Three people had started on the trail toward the summit on Tuesday and when they didn't return by evening a search was started on Wed morning. One hiker (female) was found wet and cold but ok. She noted that the other two had headed toward the summit and she waited at snowline for them to return. However, a weather front with low clouds and rain arrived and reduced visibility. The two men, both 28 years old; one with experience ,spent the night on the summit and then proceeded off the mountain in the wrong direction (to the SW). Several miles to the SW they gained logging/service roads above Spada Lake where they were found and given a helo ride back to SAR base.

The OMR team left Bremerton at 0100, arriving about 0500 at Sunrise Mine Trailhead (SAR Base) for a meeting with the sheriff at 0600. The team was dispatched up the trail to head for the summit of Vesper Peak and look around. Nearing Headlee Pass they learned that the subjects had been located and they returned to Base. Arriving back home about 2100.

Total Personnel: 4

Total Hours: 65

Total Mileage: 300

Missing Gear

The annual inventory of the white truck was conducted recently and it was found that 4 blue (10-ft) and 7 orange (20 ft) webbing pieces were missing from the webbing bags and from one of the patient packaging kits. Those of you who attended the Transitional Lower and Mt. Baldy training scenarios are asked to please check your packs for webbing or other gear that may not have been returned to the truck. Please bring it to the next meeting or contact Sarah Armstrong (360) 377-1360 to get it placed back into the truck. We have all at one time or another accidentally taken gear home. Please take the time to check through your gear.

Article by Sarah Armstrong

VIP Passes

The VIP passes for those of you that were able to attend stand by up on Hurricane Ridge are in. John Stieber will be passing these out at the meeting. Below is a letter of thanks from Park Ranger DeeRenee Ericks.

Olympic Mountain Rescue

Sorry these passes are so late in getting to you. I thought that our volunteer coordinator had taken care of the task, but there was a breakdown in communication somewhere.

Thanks so much to John Stieber and all the energy he put into coordinating the winter activities. He helped us with low angle rescue training also.

I appreciate each and everyone of you and the dedication you have to mountain rescue. Thank you for spending time with us in training sessions to help us maintain our skills.

Dee Renee

Summer Standby 2005

June 4, 5, 6	July 2, 3, 4	July 30, 31, & Aug.1	August 27, 28, 29
Sarah Armstrong	Greg Barron_____	Steve Leslie_____	John Stieber
Jason Bausher	_____	Anthony Vietti__	Rick Lorenz
June 11, 12, 13	July 9, 10, 11	August 6, 7, 8	
John Stieber	Steve Leslie	Dave Steidle_____	
_____	Shawn Herndon	_____	
June 18, 19, 20	July 16, 17, 18	August 13, 14, 15	
M. Hendrickson	Anthony Vietti Dale Boyle		
Margaret Brownell	M. Hendrickson	Dave Steidle_____	
June 25, 26, 27	July 23, 24, 25	August 20, 21, 22	
Mac Macdowell	Dale Boyle	Shawn Herndon	
_____	Ann Richey	Dick Waldo_____	

Commitment

We, as group, are available to go help people 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The commitment to time in training alone is not to be taken lightly. Part of our responsibility is also to commit to summer and winter standby weekends. Recently we have begun to see a pick up in the number of missions. Why do I mention this you might ask. Well . . . if you check the missions listed in this newsletter, you will see that not including in town personnel we had a cumulative total of eight people go on these three missions. That is eight total, not each. Missions are almost never convenient to go on. But think of it this way - If you were a firefighter having Thanksgiving dinner with your family and the house next door was burning, what would you do? Ignore the fire and continue eating?

Of all the people in OMR, two are always available for calls. Jim Groh and Roger Beckett. Jim and Roger will get the calls late at night and send out a group page and start making calls to those who don't have pagers.

Way to go Jim and Roger. Praise to them, you might think. In part yes. The main reason I bring this up is that many people who have the group's pagers turn them off at night. Gasp! Sneer at those people if you wish. There is also a large number people who don't answer their phones at night either. What is up with that, people! Those of you who do this (or rather don't), and you know who you are, might want to rethink your priorities and where you truly want to be. Regardless of day or night everyone needs to give a little respect and return the call even if it is to say you are not going.



Blackhawk helicopter field LZ during Goat Rocks mis-

Teaming Up With Others

Many are the times that we are on a mission and get teamed up with some from another group. Usually this is not a problem, as those we get teamed up with are from other mountain rescue groups. Recently, I was on a mission and the two of us who went were teamed up with a SAR group that was not high angle trained. As we quickly found out these people while proficient in searching were not up to the challenge of searching in rugged high alpine areas. The problem is not with being teamed up with different groups, but rather in overestimating their comfort and skill levels in an environment that is foreign to them.

This concern is not only directed at SAR and MRA groups, but at law enforcement personnel and park personnel, as well. Just because someone works in an area does not mean that they are comfortable with every aspect of that area.

Being a Team

Not long ago, while on a mission, it became necessary to split up the team. One of the people was scouting ahead for the best route to get back to the helo LZ. The other person was holding back to assist the other members that they had been teamed up with. Long story short, the person who was scouting ahead had reached the top of the steep gully and the people below had become exhausted and had to retreat back down the valley side.

The person at the top would have had to climb back down to rejoin the team, as it worked out he was able to join up with another team that was nearby.

Whenever we are out in the field, whether it be for training or a mission, we must remember to stay together. This is done for many reasons, the biggest being safety. Sometimes, it is necessary to split up to search around both sides of an object. But the distance should not be out of shouting distance for very long. If anything were to happen when the team is split up, it does not take a lot to imagine how fast things would get bad.