



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

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

Missions

Mission # 05-0437

Date : 2-20-05

Hours : 42

Miles : 600

OL John Stieber, Dick Waldo, John Ellsworth, Mark Hendrickson, Shawn Herndon, Roger Beckett, Jerry Rickaby, Rick Lorenz

The callout came at 1115, on Sunday morning. There was a person with a broken leg on the Mt Ellinor trail. Given the nature of the reported injury, it was decided to depart from the fire hall at 1230. While in transit, the OMR truck received word that the patient and the people with him were going to try and make their way out to the trail head, where a 4x4 vehicle was going to try to bring him out. The rescue vehicles could not make it to the trailhead, as there was too much snow on the upper road. The OMR truck reached search base (the base of the road to Mt Ellinor and Mt Washington), where we told to sit tight, in case the 4x4 bringing the patient down needed help. After a wait of nearly an hour, it was decided to send the OMR truck with a Fire Dept paramedic up the road, just in case there a problem. The 4x4 was met on the road not far from search base and was followed down. At base, EMTs and Paramedics concluded that the patient had a dislocated knee. The patient decided to ride in a privat vehicle to the hospital. OMR personnel were released from the scene at approximately 1500.

Meeting

Next meeting : Tuesday, March 8th; Basic helicopter

Training

Upcoming training : Saturday, March 19th; in field helicopter training.

This training is being set up by Paul Gelineau. The exact time and location will be given at the March meeting.

Past training : March 26, Mt Angelas training. In lieu of the planned avalanche training, there was a scenerio based training of bringing an injured person off of the mountain. Included in this were the use of the new litter wheel. Some problems were identified, with the wheel assembly. Most notably it's attachment to the litter. The primary items the training focused on was route finding, leap frogging the anchors.



OMR ID Badges

The group is getting ready to make some more ID badges. If you are new or your old badge is beat up. Come to the next meeting and get your photo taken for your new badge.

A Fond Farewell

Many of you have worked with Dan Pontbriand, of Olympic National Park. One of many strong supporters of OMR within the park, Dan recently accepted a position in Washington DC. He is now the National Park Service Emergency Services Coordinator, in charge of SAR, EMS, Dive, and Incident Command. Good luck with your new job. You will be missed.

Power Point Training

David Steidle has been working on power point presentations for the group. Anyone who is going to be giving a training may see if they want to use the available units. Any questions can be direct to David.



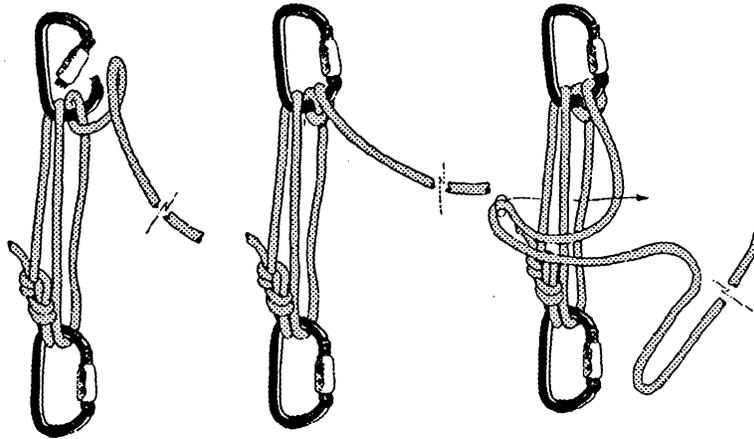
The Radium Release Hitch was developed by *Rigging for Rescue* (with input from Arnör Larson) as a result of the extensive comparative analysis of release devices¹ undertaken during 1997 through 1999.

Materials Required

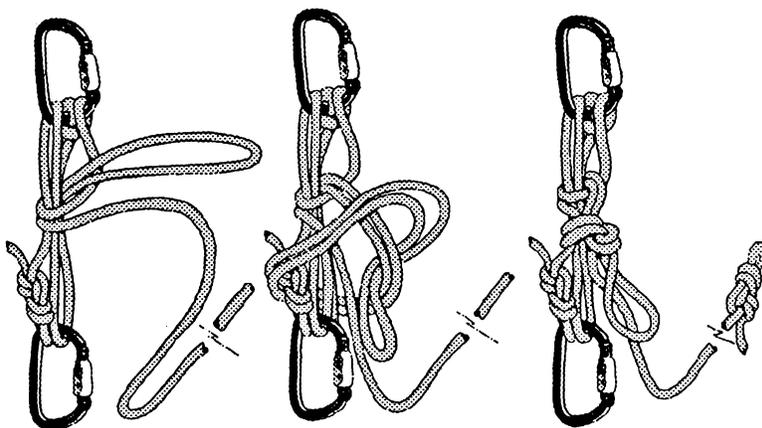
10 m of 8 mm nylon low stretch kernmantle cord and 2 locking carabiners

How to Tie

1. Tie a figure-of-8-on-a-bight and clip it into the load-side carabiner on its spine side.
2. Clip the standing part of the cord up through the anchor carabiner, back down through the load carabiner; bring back up to the anchor and tie a Münter Hitch onto that anchor carabiner on its gate side. Ensure that the Münter Hitch is in the release position with the in-feed rope towards the gate side of the carabiner. A reasonable length for the hitch is 10 to 15 cm.
3. Secure the Radium Release Hitch using a bight to tie a half hitch around the entire stem below the Münter Hitch, and then back it up with an overhand-on-a-bight knot, again around the entire stem.
4. Tie a figure-of-8-on-a-bight at the other end and clip it to a secure anchor if desired.



For illustrative purposes, the half-hitch and overhand tie-offs are not shown tied tight up against the Münter Hitch. In actual use, ensure that this is done.



Artwork courtesy of Rick Lipke.
Copyright©1999 Conterra Inc. All rights reserved
1600 Kentucky Street, Bellingham WA 98226

¹ For additional information, please refer to the complete report "Release Devices: A Comparative Analysis" by Katie and Kirk Mauthner, *Rigging for Rescue* (December 1999).