



# OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

A volunteer organization dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education  
February 2006

## Missions

There were no missions during the month of January.

## Meeting

Next meeting : Tuesday, February 14th. The planned training for the evening is to be Crime Scene Preservation by Steve Leslie.

## Training

Upcoming training : Saturday, February 11th. Weather permitting the planned training is a scenerio based winter training on Mount Angeles. This training, as stated, is going to a scenerio based and will entail the location and evacuation of a subject from the side of Mt Angeles. Among the skills used will be placing snow anchors, winter rigging, patient packaging (with emphasis toward winter weather concerns) and of course use of avalanche beacons. Start time is to be approximately 0930 up at Hurricane Ridge. If you would like to ride in the OMR truck it will be leaving the firehall at 0700.

## Dues Are Due

It is February and the unit is way behind in getting dues from each of the members. The amount of the dues depends on whether you have an OMR group pager or not. If you do not have a pager then the dues that you owe are \$15. If you have a pager then your dues are \$45.

Pay your dues to Greg Barron at the next general meeting. If you are not going to be at the meeting then you can mail your dues to him at

Greg Barron  
7425 Thorndyke Rd  
Quilcene, WA 98376

## Into The Dark

While the title of this article may lead you to think of missions in the dark, in the mountains, this is not the case. Recently many of the people in our area had their electrical power taken away during a severe wind storm.

What has this to do with mountain rescue? Well, not much with the mountains, but everything to do with potential rescue. With the power out, temperatures inside homes plummeted quickly. Especially those without some sort of wood or gas heating. Even though some people had pellet stoves, this didn't help much when the power went out. This loss of heat is in addition to the loss of any equipment which is needed for a person to operate and move around normally.

While normally, this would only be a concern for the power company, sometimes it can take days for the power to come back on.

Most of us know someone who needs the power to be on for medical reasons or some other critical purpose. I personally know of several people who, due to their fierce independence, did not ask for help until it was almost too late. One needed the power to operate a pellet stove, which was the primary source of heat. Another needed to power a machine which assisted in breathing, after the back up battery ran out.

Another person had an alternate heat source, a kerosene heater. Can you see where this one is going? Once started the heater started producing carbon monoxide. By time I called, the person was already starting to experience mild headaches, from CO poisoning.

What may seem like common sense to you or me, can go out the window in times of stress. It is too easy for someone to go too far in the name of comfort.

This is just a reminder to remember those who cannot easily help themselves, during times of difficulty. A simple phone call can make the difference between life and death.

## Avalanche Danger

Out with the old,  
In with the new-  
Clouds have arrived,  
Gone is the blue.

The westerly flows,  
Pounding on the door-  
Putting snow on the crust,  
And load on the hoar.

Showers this morning,  
Then more snow after that  
At least temps stay low,  
About where they're at.

This creates more weak layers  
And buries the hoar-  
Makes Friday thru Sunday,  
Anything but a bore.

Friday's showers and winds,  
Should increase by night-  
Making the weekend,  
A rather dangerous delight.

A good front Saturday,  
Windy, snowy and cool-  
Should make slabs more likely,  
As a reasonable rule.

Then warming on Sunday  
With heavy rain or wet snow-  
Should make bigger slabs,  
More than ready to go.

Danger should climb,  
And it might not stop-  
Until it reaches,  
Pretty close to the top.

So if you're planning this weekend,  
To sample the snow-  
Make sure you're prepared-  
And know how to go.

Be aware and be cautious,  
Be objective and think-  
And don't go ahead,  
If red lights blink.

There will be other times,  
Other slopes and great snow-  
And you'll be much better off  
If that's when you go.

*Poem submitted by Cass Whalen  
Courtesy of the Northwest Avalanche Center*

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## Winter Stand By

Winter is off to a great start. There is a lot of snow up at the Ridge. So much so that the Ridge road has been closed a couple of times due to the amount of snow and strong winds. We still need all of you to take a look at the winter stand by roster and sign up for any of the available weekends. When you decide on a weekend contact John Stieber to be put on the roster. The updated roster is at the end of the newsletter.