



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

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

Missions

Mission No: 2006-7 (DEM 06-1475)

Date: June 3

Location: Lone Butte; Skamania County

Type: Missing Hiker

Personnel: Shawn Herndon (OL), Jason Bausher, Mac Macdowell, Christopher Claesson;

Roger Beckett and Jim Groh (ITC)

This was a standby weekend and nobody was on standby! Shortly after 1700 on Friday, June 2, KCSO Almond contacted Beckett about an ongoing search in Skamania County. Contacts with the SAR coordinator in Skamania County and with the State DEM indicated that they would be happy if our team of experts could be available at the search base at 0900 on the 3ed. See the attached news article on the history. Groh did the pageout Herndon was anointed Operations Leader and the team left Westgate at 0400 proceeding into the mountains via Cougar WA.. Herndon reports the following: "Christopher C., Jason Bausher, Mac and I assisted Skamania County in a relatively small but thorough search for a 50 year old male missing since Thursday evening, May 25th. The search area was about 15 miles S.E. of Mt. St. Helens and about 15 miles S.W. of Mt. Adams. F.S. road 30 was still sporting 10 or so inches of snow within our search radius at about 4000'. Our group was given the uphill side of F.S. 30 from where the vehicle was found and we were to do a line of sight search, checking all tree wells up to FS25, about 2 miles. The snow was not deep enough to completely conceal anyone

Missions continued on page 2

Meeting

Next meeting : Tuesday, July 11th. The scheduled training is to be Radio Procedures. The instructor is to be determined.

Training

Upcoming training : Saturday, July 15th. This months training is the second helicopter training of the year. If you did not make it to the helo training in April then you should attend this one.



Tony DiBenedetto dropping over the edge during the Lena Creek Training. This new area provided unique challenges for all aspects of rigging. From the Litter Attendant and Edge Man, to the people who were setting up for the belay and main line systems.

Missions continued from page 1

and firm enough to make snowshoes unnecessary.

At 1:30 pm we completed our area with a 96% POD. Incident Commander Sergeant Arnie Gonser informed us that all areas that he wanted investigated were covered at that point. We were then given the option to leave or we could be sent to other areas if we desired to continue. Because of the inconsistent accounts of his disappearance, we concluded that continuing would probably prove futile. We returned to Westgate around 19:00 that evening.”

Total Personnel: 6

Total Hours: 71

Total Mileage: 620

Mission No: 2006-8 (DEM 06-1684)

Date: June 19

Location: Muncaster Mountain, Fire Creek area; Olympic National Park

Type: Missing Climber

Personnel: Loring Bemis (OL), Jason Bausher, Christopher Claesson, Susan DiBenedetto;

Roger Beckett (ITC) Dick Waldo (Radio)

Standby for later support: Greg Barron & John Stieber

Greta Cook, ONP Fire Center, called at 0827 with a request that OMR support the Park in looking for an overdue climber. No DEM number had been obtained at that time but Beckett proceeded with the callout. By 0930 the team had been determined, DEM number in hand and 1130 departure from Bremerton was set. Bausher was the last to be contacted but he was the closest (Aberdeen) and proceeded to search base arriving about the time the truck with the others left Bremerton. Approximately 1330 the truck received a turn around call from search base. Bausher was at base and reports the following:

Missions continued on page 3

Truck Fund Update

Fund raiser moneys : \$2630

Various OMR assets : \$12,000

Estimate from sale of old truck sale : \$2500

Current Total : \$17,130

Needed : Approximately \$50,000

The truck fund is off to a good start. The fund raising fliers that some of you have received from John Ellsworth have started to trickle in. If the fliers have a good turn around rate, this trial run could be expanded to the entire group.

Rigging Study Group

Shawn Herndon and Christopher Cleason approached the board with the idea of having a study group set up for those who would like to have a more one on one help with different aspects of rigging. The dates and times for these sessions are completely negotiable. While Shawn and Christopher are setting this up, several of the board members were interested in helping out as well. If you are interested in participating in this contact Shawn, Christopher, or any of the board members.

Summer Standby

Here we are a month into the summer stand by season and we have had several missions so far. However the sign up list is not doing so well. Luckily we have been able to field a team for each of the missions. Many of the active members in OMR suggested that we try an online sign up for weekend stand by, via the OMR website. We have tried this and I for one am a bit disappointed in the sign up rate. The idea was to allow the members to be more flexible with their schedules in regards to signing up for a weekend of stand by. Our active members should not have to be harassed in order to sign up for one or two weekends of stand by time. It is time to step up to the plate and get your names on the roster. If you do not have access to a computer, then let one of the board members know and can get your name entered.

Missions continued from page 2

“A party of four Olympia Mountaineers attempted to summit Muncaster Mountain Saturday, June 17. After a disagreement with a male member of the party, the sole female member of the party was either left behind or stayed behind the party at around 1300 hours June 17 on a ridge SSE of Muncaster at 5000' of elevation. She is reported to be an experienced mountaineer; she is, however, 68 years old, had neither map and compass nor overnight gear, and is reported to only have eaten Doritos on the 17th. The remaining three members of the party searched for her that evening before descending to their camp on Fire Creek. They broke camp at 0600 June 18 and alerted the Graves Creek Campground host at approximately 1000. The ONP District Ranger was contacted by the campground host, and District staff was mobilized that evening. Sub-District Ranger George Leite conducted interviews, sent rangers up Fire Creek, and attempted unsuccessfully to procure a helicopter for an over flight during a brief period of visibility in the valley of the east fork of the Quinault in the late evening of June 18.

I received a phone call from Roger Beckett at 0952 June 19 for mission 06-1684 and arrived at the North Shore Ranger Station at 1204. Upon seeing no one at the ranger station, I drove to Bunch Field where the Park Service usually stages helicopter operations. I debriefed with Leite, waited while helicopter overflights probed the area, and awaited three other OMR members. With a possible mountaineering and rope rescue in mind, Leite had planned to insert OMR members by helicopter into the search site near the summit of Muncaster. The subject was located at 1255, although it was not immediately evident whether she would require extrication by ropes and/or a litter. She was seated in trees adjacent to a snow field below the 5200' knob 0.75 mile SSE of Muncaster (ca. N5275450/E0461400) and did not move when the helicopter approached. The failure to move for several minutes resulted in the rangers believing she was injured--a mis-

conception reinforced by the butt-sliding performed by the subject when she finally budged from her perch in the trees. By the time the helicopter touched down, the subject was on her feet and entered the helicopter on her own power. She was then carried by helicopter to Bunch Field.

The Lake Quinault volunteer fire department took her to Grays Harbor Community Hospital in Aberdeen. During her interview by rangers at Bunch Field, she stated that she had stopped in that place (rather than attempt to self-rescue) because she did not know how to get back to camp and worried about making the situation worse.

Only minor bruising and small lacerations were found, although the bottom of her pack was ripped off by her fall down the snow slope.”

A report published in the Daily World is posted below.

Personnel: 8

Total Hours: 34

Total Mileage: 480

Words to Ponder

This weekend I had to endure two high school graduations. While trying not to be too bored I cogitated on the Bremerton High 2006 class motto and I thought it fit well with being a mountain rescue person. My opinion and worth at least what you paid for it, is that you are a better person for being in OMR.

“There is a choice you have to make in everything you do. And you must always keep in mind the choice you make, makes you.” BHS 2006

Submitted by Roger Beckett

OMR Picnic 2006

When: August 4th 2006 @ 5:00 PM

Where: The waterfront estate of Cass Whalen and Renee Barron

Location: 7423 Thorndyke Rd Quilcene, WA

Directions: Drive SR104 across the Hood Canal Bridge to South Point Road, Turn left on South Point Rd, Drive to the Thorndyke Rd and turn right on Thorndyke Rd. Drive 7.4 miles and look for the Mountain Rescue logo on the left side of the road at the top of the driveway. Drive to the end of the driveway and you are there. Park at any of the houses at the end of the road (Please note this is a 15 minute drive from the Hood Canal Bridge)

Food provided: Garden Burgers, Ham Burgers, Barbecued Chicken, Steamed Clams, Barbecued Oysters, Corn on the Cob, Steve Leslie's famous Potato Salad, and Smores

What to bring: Some thing to accompany the above items and whatever you are drinking

Activities beyond eating: Volleyball, Croquette, Sailing, Sculling, Sea kayaking, Horse back riding, Swimming, unicycling & mountain bike riding

Please attend:

This event is an annual tradition with Olympic mountain Rescue and the board encourages all members to attend.

This party is for you!

Reimbursements

Missions:

Fuel for out of county travel to missions is reimbursed to you as an individual or to OMR

The proper procedure is for your individual fuel receipt pertaining to the mission to be mailed promptly to the unit treasurer after the mission. The fuel receipt for the OMR truck should either be mailed to the treasurer by the duty OL or be left in the OMR truck after the mission.

The trip sheet also needs to be mailed to the unit Treasurer or left in the truck.

It is your choice to submit your receipt for reimbursement and it is not required to submit unless you want to be paid back. There is no set time frame for submission, but I would say that one week is acceptable to submit your receipt and be paid back.

The fuel receipt needs to be dated on or very near to the mission activity.

Personal equipment that is lost or damaged during a mission is a reimbursable expense.

Contact the unit treasurer for the proper paper work to be filled out and sent to the State

Training:

Currently there is no fuel expenses paid for to cover your travel to or from unit trainings.

Personal equipment that is lost or broken is a reimbursable expense and the same procedure as equipment lost or broken on a mission applies.

The OMR members web site lists a web site where the equipment loss forms can be down loaded.