



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

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

Missions

Mission No: 2006-1 (DEM none)

Date: January 14

Location: Hurricane Ridge, Olympic National Park

Type: Vehicle accident response

Personnel: Jim Groh, Tony DiBenedetto, Rick Lorenz (Christopher Claesson and Suzie DiBenedetto also on Nordic Patrol)

The OMR Nordic Patrol team at Hurricane Ridge assisted the Park with what turned out to be a pedestrian-car fatality. The following report is from Jim Groh:

Rich, Tony and Jim had radios during the day. Lots of snow had fallen the past week and skiing was great. The OMR team was scattered in various locations through the day. About 1430 hours the radio reports started to indicate a need for a first aid response to an auto accident near Maggies corner below the Sunrise sledding area. As reports progressed the seriousness of the injury expanded, so that Tony and Jim called in from the field offering to respond as needed, while Rick continued to monitor the response and stayed in the vicinity of the ski hill to monitor that very active area. Tony was able to ski quickly to the base of the sled area and Mike D (ONP) picked him up for support at the scene. About that time Jim had returned to the Visitors Center (VC) and Mike asked him to locate some needed first aid gear and watch over the VC for any other assistance needs while all Park staff were gone. After being stabilized the victim was taken by aid car down the mountain. The outcome was not expected.

Total Personnel: 3

Total Hours: 5

Total Mileage: 0

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Meeting

Next meeting : Tuesday, March 14th. The scheduled training is patient packaging with Andy Graham as the instructor.

Training

Upcoming training : March 18th; instructor(s) will be Shawn Herdon and one other person. This training will be on basic rigging. This is a required training for newer members and is a good training for our more senior members to attend and brush up on some of the critical skills. The training will cover the basics of knots, tying in, anchors (including tie backs), descending/ascending a line with a hanging change over, raise and lower systems and belaying. Also to be covered will be low and high angle systems. If time allows a couple of scenarios will be conducted.

Have you paid your dues yet?

I hate to harp on everyone. But there are still several of you that have not paid your dues yet. The dues are not just for MRA. Part of the dues goes towards the group pagers that some of you have. If you do not have a group pager then your dues are \$15. If you have a group pager then your dues are \$45. Every year we have to go through this where some in the group procrastinate. Lets see if we can finish getting the dues to Greg Barron before the end of March. Bring your dues to the next meeting or mail them to him at the address below.

Greg Barron

7425 Thorndyke Rd

Quilcene, WA 98376

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Mission No: 2006-2 (DEM 06-489)

Date: February 19
Location: Hamma Hamma River Road,
Mason County
Type: Medical Response (standby)
Personnel: (In-Town) Jim Groh, Roger Beckett

A call was received early Sunday evening asking OMR to be in touch with Mason County DEM or the sheriff's office.

Mason County had a report of a male with a heart condition located at the Mildred Lake trailhead. Fire Department personnel responded but were unable to get to the individual because of snow on the road. Mason SAR was looking for a snowmobile. A snow cat was located in Pierce County and OMR was on a brief standby incase additional people were required.

Total Personnel: 2

Total Hours: 1

Total Mileage: 0

Mission No: 2006-3 (DEM 06-0490)

Date: February 20
Location: Mount Dickerman; Snohomish County
Type: Missing Hiker
Personnel: Margaret Brownell (OL), Jim Groh and Rick Lorenz; Roger Beckett (ITC)

Another one of those late night calls for assistance from Snohomish County. Mountain rescue assistance was requested to help look for an overdue male hiker on Mt Dickerman, located off of the Mountain Loop Highway. The truck was underway by 0400 for a meeting at the Operation Base at 0600. Prior to arrival local searchers located the body of the hiker about 600' down a gully at a known treacherous spot on the trail. This was the second fatality this winter at the same location. OMR was turned around and all were back home by 0830.

Total Personnel: 4

Total Hours: 14

Total Mileage: 179

Mission No: 2006-4 (DEM 06-0539)

Date: February 25
Location: Hurricane Ridge, Olympic National Park
Type: Vehicle accident response
Personnel: John Stieber

While on OMR Nordic Patrol at Hurricane Ridge, Stieber was attune to radio traffic about 1445 hours that a vehicle had gone off the road down between the first and second tunnels. Other drivers were first on site and reported back to the Lodge that they could not get to the vehicle which was down hill some 450'.. After getting additional equipment from the rescue cache at the Lodge, Stieber and several rangers, a deputy and at least one ski patrol person went to the accident site. Using a vehicle for the belay anchor, Stieber first went down a 300' rope, passing a 45' near vertical cliff and then added a 150' climbing rope to drop over an overhanging 25' cliff. Upon reaching the battered Jeep Cherokee he found the driver and passenger without serious injuries, thankful to be alive. Stieber then assisted the first person to prussik up above the 45' cliff where the ski patrol person assisted the individual to the road. He then went down again and repeated the prussik process bringing up the second person. Clallam SAR arrived just before Stieber got the last person to the road. Those in the Jeep were from Seattle and had been skiing.

Total Personnel: 1

Total Hours: 3

Total Mileage: 0

Winter Stand By

Winter is nearly over and I know that a lot of you are starting to experience spring fever. The fever to get out and work in the garden , go climbing, hiking or whatever trips your fancy. But, we must be vigilant in our other duties as well. OMR has had a strong showing up at Hurricane Ridge so far this season. The last month of the roster is almost empty of people signing up. Please contact John Stieber for the weekend you wish to sign up for. There is a lot of good snow waiting for you.