



# OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

A Volunteer Organization Dedicated to Saving Lives Through Rescue and Mountain Safety Education

February 2002

**The next meeting will be at the Westgate Fire Hall on 2-12-02 at 7:00P.M. Training will be: Splinting & Backboarding**

**REPORTS** of Chairman, Officers, Coordinators, and Committees:

## **CHAIRMAN:**

A few year-end words from the Chair. With year winding down, I thought this an opportune moment to say a few words about the events of 2001. Reviewing the missions OMR participated in during the year, I took note that in each case the out come was successful, both from the standpoint of our field and in town teams and the subjects. The individual was found, treated and successfully extricated, returned to family and loved ones. This year was the first time in my experience with OMR that we didn't have a body recovery or unsuccessful search. Each and every one of these successes can be attributed to your hard work, determination, training and commitment. Congratulations!

We've welcomed quite a few new members to the unit this past year. New members bring a fresh way of looking at issues and their enthusiasm to become an effective asset is infectious and raises the participation level for everyone unit wide. While a few of the new folks found that perhaps the commitment required for OMR membership wasn't appropriate for them, most were more than willing to give 110% when ever asked. Maybe it brings all of us back to the time when we were new and being part of OMR was a real adventure. It does for me. Welcome to all of you and thanks for the energy and commitment you bring.

This past year your Board of Directors worked very hard to make OMR a better unit for you.



Greg Barron, as always, does a commensurate job of managing the budget and keeping the treasury in a "fund are adequate" condition. It's very much more work than he lets on and we all appreciate his outstanding efforts. Patrick McAuliffe has continued to spare no effort in coordinating the unit training events. In his position as Training Coordinator, he has developed a program, which satisfies the stipulations of the State and County requirements with out becoming an overwhelming burden on the individual member. That truly is a narrow balance point for him to maintain and he's proven very effective. Great job Patrick!

Dale Boyle, as your Vice-Chairman may feel a bit short changed at not having to fill in for me very often. Goodness knows, as all of you do, I never miss an opportunity to get up and talk! Sorry about that Dale! However, Dale has been producing a fine unit newsletter month after month, which serves to help keep the unit knit together. In the roll of editor, contributing writer, publisher and

producer Dale serves a vitally important function. Thanks very much. Steve Leslie now serves the unit in a position I once occupied, Membership Chair. As such, I know the level of effort he expends to ensure that all new and potential members understand what they can do for OMR and what OMR can do for them. Additionally, he deals with the County DEM on a regular basis to ensure that all the proper documentation is in order and processed in an efficient manner. That all happens because of the professionalism he applies to this position.

John Ellsworth has willingly assumed the mantel of unit Secretary, while getting married and having a new baby girl! What more do I need to say about his level of commitment to your unit!? Record keeping, letter writing, minute keeping, it's a full time job for any paid professional and he does it all willingly as a volunteer. It's a lot of work keeping



Near the top - Mt Angeles on skis

your Chairman reminded of what he needs to be doing. Thanks John.

As for your Chairman, well I can't assess my own performance. That responsibility is yours; to determine if after my first year I've done an effective job for OMR. Here's one of those chances that come along so rarely, lower the boom! I've already been told that I talk too much so no fair using that one!

To each one of you who have found the energy and willingness to make a solid, unselfish commitment to helping folks in the mountains, I say a sincere thank you. It doesn't matter what roll you played this past year. Mission participation is only one part of being a member of OMR. It brings with it the most notoriety but shouldn't be considered exclusive in importance to the unit. Our organization is only as important and effective as is each individual. We all play vital rolls necessary to the successful functioning of this Mountain Rescue unit. Whether it's helping instruct the O.C. Mountaineering class, taking care of the trucks, conducting public relations, providing suggestions for a more efficient organization, helping with the picnic and banquet, participating in training's or simply coming to the meetings. All of these things and more are what make us a Great Mountain Rescue unit.

Thanks to each and every one of you. You are Olympic Mountain Rescue and should wear the title proudly.

**TREASURER:**

Treasurer Barron reports that the unit is somewhat over budget for 2001, primarily due to the White Truck repairs. On a brighter note, the Smith Barney account has stopped its downward slide.

**TRAINING:**

We are a step closer to having individual training summaries available

via personal passwords on the web site. Until the site is operational (or after) see Patrick to access or update your personal training file.

Webmaster Barron will have more on this in the near future.

It is imperative that all applicable training from outside the unit be provided to Patrick McAuliffe as soon as possible.

**JUST PAST:**

Thanks to Dale for instructing, and to the members that attended the recent snow training at Hurricane Ridge last weekend. Five members attended and had a good training in unusual snow conditions.

**Meeting Training:**

Andrew Graham & Tom Banks lead an informative training in patient assessment. Members were able to practice assessing each other. Fortunately, all were found to be alive and well.

**UPCOMING:**

In our effort to provide quality and consistent training, the board has decided to hold an instructors training for the upcoming rigging season. We will be going over the new Rigging 4.1 that Dale has worked on, and discussing ways to keep the rigging training's material consistent regardless of who instructs that day.

On **February 12th** at the general membership meeting, Dale and I will be demonstrating various forms of Splinting, Backboarding, and Patient Packaging. The hands on training sessions will follow on **the 14th & 15th of February** from 6pm to 10pm at Westgate Fire Hall. Dale will be instructing the class on Thur. (14th), and I will be instructing the next one on Fri. (15th). The Patient Packaging training is a annual requirement and a good time to practice patient handling and experiment with different ways of packaging a patient depending on their injuries. You only need to attend one of the two evenings, or both if you would like more practice.

On **February 16th & 17th** Niko Weiss from S.O.S. will be coming down from Canada to instruct our Snow Training at Hurricane Ridge. The two day event will cover beacon searching, snow conditions, avalanche awareness and some other

topics. We encourage all members that are going to attend both days and stay at the Lodge for a possible potluck style evening. This training, and Dale's will both qualify for the units bi-annual requirement.

If anyone has any suggestions on a training topic they would like to see, or would like to lead the unit on a climb or hike feel free to contact me via phone, email or in person. *Patrick McAuliffe*

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Congratulations to Andrew Graham who was voted in as asupport member at the January meeting. Andy is a Paramedic with Mason County.

Todd Lokie, a member of Tacoma MRC, attended the January meeting and indicated an interest in joining OMR.

**FIRST AID:**

Check your card. Are you due? Remember, CPR is an annual requirement.

**PUBLICITY:**

On Wednesday January 23rd I was invited to give a presentation on OMR to the Port Orchard Kawanis Club. Civic groups such as this normally incorporate a guest speaker at their regular meetings. My presentation provided the audience with general information about OMR, it's structure, the services we provide and some of our rich history as a Mountain Rescue Unit. I also spoke about the diverse personnel that make-up our unit's membership, the individual talents and abilities that are necessary for us as a unit to provide the technical expertise our user agencies have come to depend on when they request our assistance.

One of the topics that I stressed was our commitment to training and that it's is what differentiates us from other mountaineers. The costs incurred in the annual training's mandated by both the State W.A.C. and Kitsap County figured prominently in the presentation. Additionally, I stressed the we are supported by charitable donations from the Kitsap County United Way and individuals. Hopefully this may lead to some additional contributions to the unit. In attendance was the State Lt. Governor to which I referred questions about operational funding.

My presentation also included a short slide show highlighting OMR technical

training's and field events. I believe my talk was well received and appreciated. This is the second such presentation I've given to local civic organizations and hopefully will result in some contributions designated for OMR.

*Paul Gelineau*

#### **TRUCKS:**

I have secured the permit for Forest Service building #2200. The permit will be renewed on an annual basis.

I hope to move the **Blue Truck** before the end of the month to this new location. I will distribute building keys as I see key holders.

As it turns out fire district two told me that we could leave the truck at the Dabob station for as long as we want, I guess their plans changed. At any rate I feel that the downtown Quilcene location will be a great benefit for others picking up the truck.

*Greg Barron*

**White Truck** is back at the Fire Hall. Snow studs and new brakes all the way around. It ran \$689.23 for the whole deal, front rotors were surfaced, new calipers, some other new hard parts, pads and labor. It stops good, and doesn't pull to the passenger side while driving. The pulling was the result of a caliper was not releasing all the way. *Patrick*

The transmission on the White Truck has been upgraded and a larger oil cooler added. However, it still works the same way. ***You must turn off the overdrive as soon as you start it.*** Help remind the driver.

#### **HURRICANE RIDGE STANDBY**

The list of members participating in the Hurricane Ridge Standby / Nordic Patrol has many available openings throughout the remainder of the season. Don't miss your opportunity to take part in this valuable, important and interesting work with the Park. Each member should spend one or more weekends on the ridge each winter. Members need not be field eligible. When there, don't be shy about asking for an assignment. Sign up at the next meeting or call Cass

#### **LAND NAVIGATION**

John Ellsworth is agreeable to running another Land Navigation class. The prerequisite, is that five persons sign up for the class. Those desiring to take this outstanding class need to sign up at the coming meeting.

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#### **MISSIONS**

None to report

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#### **OMR BANQUET**

The annual OMR Banquet was a great success. The food was superb. Eric Simenson was engaging and entertaining. It was especially nice to have both Dan Pontibrand from Olympic N.P. and Mike Gauthier from Mt. Rainier N.P. in attendance. Thanks also to Roger Beckett for providing the audience with this past year's mission synopsis. Many thanks to Debby Stewart, our Banquet Coordinator, for bringing such an excellent event altogether.

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#### **RfR MOVES**

Several Members have attended Rigging for Rescue in the past. So the following may be of interest.

On January 2, 2002, Kirk and Katie Mauthner sold Rigging for Rescue (RfR) to Mike and Joanie Gibbs of Ouray, Colorado. Under their eight-year tenure of ownership, the Mauthners guided RfR's development into one of the most respected rope rescue seminars in North America. Continuing the tradition that their predecessor Arnör Larson began in 1986, the Mauthners focused on applying critical thinking to rope rescue applications and techniques. The result of which has been the discovery of some new approaches that offer safer and easier rope rescue solutions. As the new owner and RfR alumnus, Mike Gibbs firmly believes in the principles, concepts and philosophies that Rigging for Rescue has become renowned for. It is his objective and commitment to maintain and build this reputation of high quality, intensive, data-based seminars and techniques.

The Mauthners will continue to be involved in rope rescue as well as RfR. Kirk will continue to maintain a position as a RfR instructor in a part to full-time capacity. Kirk and Katie also have a continued interest in research, testing and product development. The sale of RfR will allow them some scheduling flexibility to pursue these fields more aggressively.

So, who are the new owners?

Mike Gibbs is currently the owner/director of San Juan Mountain Guides, LLC of Ouray, Colorado and is a full-time climbing guide. Mike and Joanie are both active members of the Ouray Mountain Rescue team. Mike holds a degree in business administration from the University of Oregon and Joanie is a Colorado College graduate in political science.

Ouray, Colorado, is well-known amongst ice climbers and it offers an abundance of alpine and craggy terrain well-suited for rope rescue applications and training. Our plan will be to offer open-enrollment seminars here in Ouray as well as Invermere. Presently, there are two new open-enrollment seminars scheduled for Ouray in 2002.

We very much look forward to continuing to offer high-caliber rope rescue seminars across North America and overseas. Our goal is to offer rescuers innovative and practical, solutions and thinking to rope rescue applications. We look forward to your future attendance in an RfR seminar. Cheers!

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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#### **AVALANCHE REFLECTIONS**

As the violence subsides, and it gets quiet and dark, your limbs pinned by the fast setting snow, the thought comes: how big and how strong is the shovel on my partners pack?