



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

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

July 2002

The next meeting will be at the Westgate Fire Hall on July 9th at 7:00P.M. Training will be: High Altitude Rescues

REPORTS of Chairman, Officers, Coordinators, and Committees:

TREASURER:

Treasurer Barron reports that funds are adequate for current operations.

TRAINING:

JUST PAST:

On **June 12th** we had a good turnout for the **Helicopter in-field** training put on by the 54th Air Ambulance division at Fort Lewis. I would like to thank all the members that took time out of their busy summer routines to attend. The group encountered good weather and was able to work with a live aircraft and made a great impression on MAST with their performance.

Meeting Training: Mission protocols were discussed.

UPCOMING:

Our general membership training scheduled this month is going to be **High Altitude Rescues** on **July 9th**. We have originally contacted Mike Gauthier of Mt. Rainier, about doing this, but since this is their busy season, we may have a substitute for him. We routinely assist the Park with missions on Mt. Rainier and more recently Mt. Baker, so these are some things we should be aware of. On **July 18th** at 7pm. Paul will be giving a talk and slide show at Vertical World about OMR. After the slide show the unit will be putting on a practical



Taking a break in the Duckabush search

demonstration of picking off an injured climber on one of the gyms 42 ft. high walls. Contact Paul if you would like to help with the demonstration.

On **July 20th** for our **Mock Mission**, we will be doing a high angle exercise on the Steel Bridge at Browns Creek. It has been a few years since we have trained there and is a great time to put our rigging, patient assessment and team skills to use. We will depart the fire hall at 0800, or ready to start at 0900 at the bridge. Please be ready to sign-up at the meeting, or contact Patrick

Stieber who has moved up to the position of Operations Leader. John has demonstrated the requisite skill and dedication for this job.

Congratulations to **Michael Oras** who was voted in at Rescue Support by the general membership at the June meeting. Michael is a physician in the U. S. Navy.

PUBLICITY:

August 12th I'll be giving an OMR presentation to the Peninsula Wilderness Club. *Paul G*

We are looking for a volunteer to assist Paul Gelineau during his Monday 12 August Presentation at the

MEMBERSHIP:

Congratulations to **John**



Controlling the litter with a tag line - Helo training Grey Field

Peninsula Wilderness Club Meeting. Volunteer will help set up/serve refreshments during the meeting break as well as hand out business cards and answer questions concerning the unit. If you'd like to help, please contact John Ellsworth at 779-5382.

EQUIPMENT:

Dick Waldo reports that channel 10 on our radios (USFS - forest service direct) is no longer usable. The forest service has moved to new frequency that our radios won't cover.

Greg Barron reports: I ordered the parts (center mating plates) for the Cascade Litters. It is \$175.00 per litter, so I just purchased two for now. I will change them out as soon as I get the parts.

TRUCKS:

MISSIONS

Mission No: 2002-3 (02-1225)

Date: May 28

Location: Mt Baker, Watcom County

Personnel: (Field team) Greg Barron(OL), Mac MacDowell, Crystal McAuliffe, John Ellsworth (In Town) Roger Beckett

Olympic Mtn Rescue was called by the WA Dept of Emergency Mgt at 0500 (Tuesday, May 28) requesting a team be sent to Watcom Co. to assist in a rescue on Mt Baker. Subjects Douglas Miller, 30 , and Ryan Durham, 22, left Seattle at 2230 hours on Sunday to climb Baker via the Coleman route. They were prepared for a one-day trip only and did not have any overnight gear. Reportedly they were experienced climbers. The climbing team reached the summit in white out conditions and after starting the descent and feeling disoriented they dug a snow cave and called for help late Monday using a Family Service Radio. The call was picked up by a private party in Lyndon, WA about 60 miles away and they contacted the Sheriff.

The SAR base was set up on Monday night two miles from the Heliotrope ridge trailhead (because of snow). The deputy in charge decided early on to use snowmobiles for shuttling rescuers into the field where they took two members of Bellingham MR and one from Snohomish MR to meet the climbers coming down the mountain.

The climbing party was given food, water and dry clothing and were found in good health. The climbers and rescuers were ferried back out to SAR base by 1500 hours. OMR and 2 from Seattle MR were held at SAR base in case backup was needed. OMR personnel departed when the climbers were safe, caught the 1750 ferry from Edmonds and were home by 2000.

by *Greg Barron and Roger Beckett*

Total Personnel:	5	
Total Hours:	63	
Total Mileage:		385

Mission No: 2002-4 (02-1331)

Date: June 8

Location: Mt Ellinor, Mason County

Personnel: (Field team) Greg Barron(OL), Mark Hendrickson and Tony DiBenedetto

(In Town) Roger Beckett, Jim Groh
Olympic Mtn Rescue was called by the WA Dept of Emergency Mgt about 13:30 requesting a team be sent to Mt Ellinor to assist Mason Co with the rescue of a 21 yo female with a neck injury on the Ellinor trail. The Standby Team was activated and they were underway when we were notified by Mason Co that local volunteers had been able to get the subject to the trail head and OMR would not be needed.

by Roger Beckett

Total Personnel:	5	
Total Hours:	7	
Total Mileage:		130

Mission No: 2002-5 (02-1393)

Date: June 15-16

Location: Duckabush River, Jefferson County

Personnel: (Field team) Duane Stewart (OL), Deb Stewart, Greg Barron, Mark Hendrickson, Cass Whalen, John Stieber, Tod Lokey, Barry Pealstrom and Sarah Armstrong (In Town) Roger Beckett, Jim Groh
Olympic Mtn Rescue was called by the Jefferson County Dispatcher at 22:15

requesting technical assistance in a search for a missing rafter on the Duckabush. At 22:30 the State DEM office called to confirm our support and to advise that a dive team would be coming from Thurston Co. The missing person, a 30 year old male (Robert Lindsay) from Bremerton was with another male rafting when the raft flipped over mid-afternoon. The one rafter was able to swim ashore and go for help. The Coast Guard was able to do a fly over in the late afternoon and the missing rafter was not spotted along or in the river. The weekend Standby Team was activated and others were paged or called until we could field the requested support. A group page was sent at 22:40 advising all hands of a mission in progress. And a standby team was available for Monday if additional personnel were required.



Practicing loading/unloading a patient from live helo - Helo training Grey Field

Barron and Whalen proceeded to the SAR base in the Blue truck and Stewart (the OL) and the rest of the personnel had the White truck leaving Westgate at 02:00 for a 04:00 rendezvous at a private community park on Kelly Rd. off the Duckabush River Road.

Stewart reports the following:

"Jefferson County Search and Rescue was in charge of operations since the Jefferson County Sheriff SAR personnel were out of town. We were to search for a 30-year-old male, one of two rafters, who had put in at the Collins Campground. It was an inexpensive raft which they floated the first mile or so before encountering a large rock which flipped their raft. One of the men made it to the shore and went for help. The last he had seen his partner was floating down the river without the raft. The men did not have PFD's or helmets. We were told that the subject did not know how to swim. The river was very high and running fast, mostly 4th & 5th class water in narrow canyons.

We broke into two teams and were

dispatched to just below the large rock that had flipped the raft. We were to work our way down river rappelling cliff areas that could not be seen by the helicopter or by other viewing. The cliffs were less than 100 feet to the river, and we would only descend far enough to get a good look at the holes and strainers. The raft was still just below the large rock spinning in an eddy. We spent the morning in very brushy steep terrain lowering people over the cliffs, looking into any holes that may hold a body. We worked the cliff areas by leap frogging the two teams all the way to Ranger Hole. When finished, we were asked to retrieve the raft, but it was gone when we got back.

The OMR search teams got back to SAR base around 1:00 PM and were again asked to return to another technical terrain area just below Ranger Hole, parking at the Interrorem Cabin Trailhead. In the afternoon, Two Forest Service personnel, Mark Walmsley and Chris joined the OMR teams. We again worked down stream for about 1.25 miles rappelling and

down climbing the cliff areas for better views. We finished the search area around 4:00 PM and had to hiked out to Duckabush River Road and then up the road 1 mile to the trailhead . Both teams arrived at SAR base at 17:30 for a quick debriefing. The white truck arrived at Westgate Fire hall at 7:00 PM after a full 17 hour work day."

The big news for Monday the 17th was the report that the missing rafter had been swept up onto a flat rock on the rivers edge where he had been able to get into the surrounding forest. He had seen the helo's fly over but had been unable to be seen by them. After being in the woods nearly 2 days without shoes or food he was able to hike out to assistance on Monday morning. This rafting accident had an unusual happy ending.

by Roger Beckett

Total Personnel:	11
Total Hours:	180
Total Mileage:	431