



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

A volunteer organization dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education
December 2005

Missions

Mission No: 2005-12 (DEM 05-2737)

Date: October 8

Location: Mt Ellinor, Mason County

Type: Search

Personnel: Steve Leslie (OL), John Stieber, Rick Lorenz, Dick Waldo, Tony DiBenedetto, Loring Bemis, Jim Groh and Shawn Herndon. Roger Beckett (In Town), Mac MacDowell (In Town radio watch)
Standby: Margaret Brownell, Joel Pomerinki, Mark Hendrickson, Chris Claesson

A call came from our fairy godmother (answering service) at 1635 and Beckett called the State DEM office to get the word of a lost climber on Mt Ellinor. Groh paged the waiting masses while Beckett talked to Mason County DEM.

A lightly dressed 27 year old male had made the summit of Mt Ellinor when it started to snow and he headed down the trail. Fog became a white out at times and he missed the trail and became lost. He used his cell phone to call out to Shelton. He was advised to stay put and turn off the cell phone except to check in about every 30 minutes. Weather conditions were fog and rain/snow.

Several of the team responded directly toward the Ellinor trailhead and the truck departed Westgate at 1800. Beckett requested Mason county DEM not field other groups at this time and to arrange for a thermos of hot drink for the subject when he could be found. Lorenz picked up hot cocoa from a cafe on 101.

The OMR team was divided into three climbing teams: Bemis, Lorenz and DiBenedetto proceeded up the summer trail. Leslie, Stieber and Waldo started up the

Missions continued on page 2

Meeting

Next meeting : Tuesday, December 13th. There is no training at this meeting. This time of the year is for reviewing the year and is meant to be a social gathering. Please bring your favorite dessert munchie. There will be a short feature film shown during the meeting.

Training

Upcoming training : Normally there no training during December. However this year OMR had a chance to get Nikko Weis to come down to give an avalanche training. The date will be Dec 10th and 11th and will take place up at Hurricane Ridge. Further information is given on page two of this newsletter. If you can possibly make this training it will be worth it!

Proof in the Paperwork

In an effort to keep our records up to date with the state and county, OMR is requesting that all members bring a copy of thier drivers liscense and proof of insurance to the next meeting. Along these same lines if any of you have received a CPR card or first aid card from outside of OMR please please bring a copy of these as well. If you are not going to be able to attend any of the upcoming meetings please mail the copy (or copies) to Mac Macdowell at P.O. Box 3588, Silverdale, WA 98383.

Nominations Update

It is time to cast your vote on who you would like to serve on the Board. Last month it was announced that two positions on the board were up for revote. Each term is only three years long. If you think that you would like to try you hand at dealing with some of the administrative duties please come and put your name in. Currently Sarah Armstrong and Cass Whalen are the only members running.

Missions continued from page 1

Ellinor Chute. Finding plenty of rainwater runoff they backed off and took the summer trail to the summit. Groh and Herndon remained at Base. Around 2230 the first team had voice contact.

They were able to finally reach the subject about 0200 after finding a way down through major cliff bands. He was off to the SW from the summit and well below the trail. After some effort to find a suitable way back up to the trail they bagged it and bivvied for the night, providing the subject with clothing, a sleeping bag and bivy sack etc. At first light they proceeded uphill to the trail and arrived back at Base about 1000.

Team two, after reaching the summit and knowing the subject had been found, returned back to Base for the night.

Total Hours: 175

Total Mileage: 745

Winter Stand By

Snow is starting to build up in the mountains. The last that was heard there was approximately 46" of snow up at Hurricane Ridge. It is starting to look like we may have a good winter this year. It is only one month until the beginning of winter stand by up at the Ridge. Included in this newsletter is a copy of the stand by roster and a list of the expectations for those who participate.

An additional requirement for OMR personnel up at the Ridge is that they must sign in on the Group Volunteer Signature Form. This form is just the Parks records of volunteers serving in the Park. Most of those who have signed up for stand by, have already signed the form. If you have not yet signed or you committed yourself to stand by via phone or email, there will be one of the forms up at the Ridge with the sign in sheets that you are all familiar with. These sheets will be located on a clip board next to the OMR lock box, in the rescue cache, inside the Lodge. Please take the time to sign these sheets.

If you still need to sign up for a weekend or two, contact John Stieber.

Winter Snow Training

As most of you know the winter snow training scheduled for January was re-scheduled for December 10th & 11th. The training will be held at Hurricane Ridge and will be a two day training with an evening Saturday session. The instructor for this training will be Niko Weis from Vancouver Island. Topics to be covered are: Navigation in Avalanche terrain, Avalanche beacon use, Snow Science and Observational Guidelines of Snow, Weather and Avalanches. A text titled "Snow, Weather, and Avalanches Observational Guidelines for Avalanche programs in the United States" will be provided.

You are asked to please bring a 7.5 Minute map of the Hurricane Ridge area, protractor, compass, pencil & please bring your Avalanche Beacon. Please come prepared to operate in any weather.

This training is being held in conjunction with Olympic National Park and the park will be having 8-10 rangers participate in the training. Currently OMR has 14 members signed up for this training.

The training will begin at 9:00 AM at the lodge. Plan on arriving at the gate at 8:30 AM. The start time will be adjusted to account for a late road opening. The OMR Truck will be leaving West gate at 6:45 AM and will return on Sunday evening. For further information contact Greg Barron at 360-765-4428.



Tony DiBenedetto cutting a rutsch block.

Course Outline for Avalanche training at Hurricane Ridge December 10 & 11 2005

This course is specialized and customized for intermediate to advanced persons with previous training. The over all learning objectives centers on three themes:

- 1) Snow Science
- 2) Field travel in avalanche terrain
- 3) Avalanche Beacons and Organized avalanche rescue methodology.

SNOW SCIENCE:

Review and use of American Avalanche Associations Standards manual: SWAG Snow pits and snow / avalanche observations. Interpreting Public Avalanche Bulletins (Use of graphic ICONS and color) Interpreting Local observations Backcountry Travel Advisories, how to interpret, Create, use. Discussion of local weather snow pack, avalanche and weather trends. Quick observations of snow while on the move.

FIELD TRAVEL IN AVALANCHE TERRAIN:

Map/slope avalanche terrain determination exercise in class Map/slope. Avalanche terrain in field verification, size slope etc. Review of Safe travel risk reduction measures. Route finding and track setting for field travel. Link field travel to travel advisories Identifying suitable test slope and test pit locations.

AVALANCHE BEACONS AND ORGANIZED RESCUE:

Any and all beacon questions answered. Step calibrating and testing. Multiple burials and Deep Burials. Managing searchers and multiple beacons on a search site.

Any requests...

An evening session is planned for Saturday.

Students should bring a rite in the rain note book.



A great ending to a great day of training on the Nisqually Glacier