

OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO SAVING LIVES THROUGH RESCUE AND MOUNTAIN SAFETY EDUCATION

www.olympicmountainrescue.org

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2008



THE OMR NEW LETTER IS BACK!

Over the past two years OMR has survived without a newsletter; however, with the inspiration of Madelynne Higgins it has returned. The hope is that the newsletter will provide current updates on OMR missions and training activities in a convenient format. The frequency has yet to be determined, but at a minimum the newsletter will be quarterly.

Missions for 2008

To summarize 2008 OMR participated in eight calls/missions: Mt. Ellinor (2), Three Fingers Peak, Mt Washington, The Brothers, Mt. Roosevelt, Nisqually River for a total of 13 persons searched for or rescued by 22 volunteers involved, 880 hours in the field and 5022 miles driven and Kitsap Winter Storm Standby.

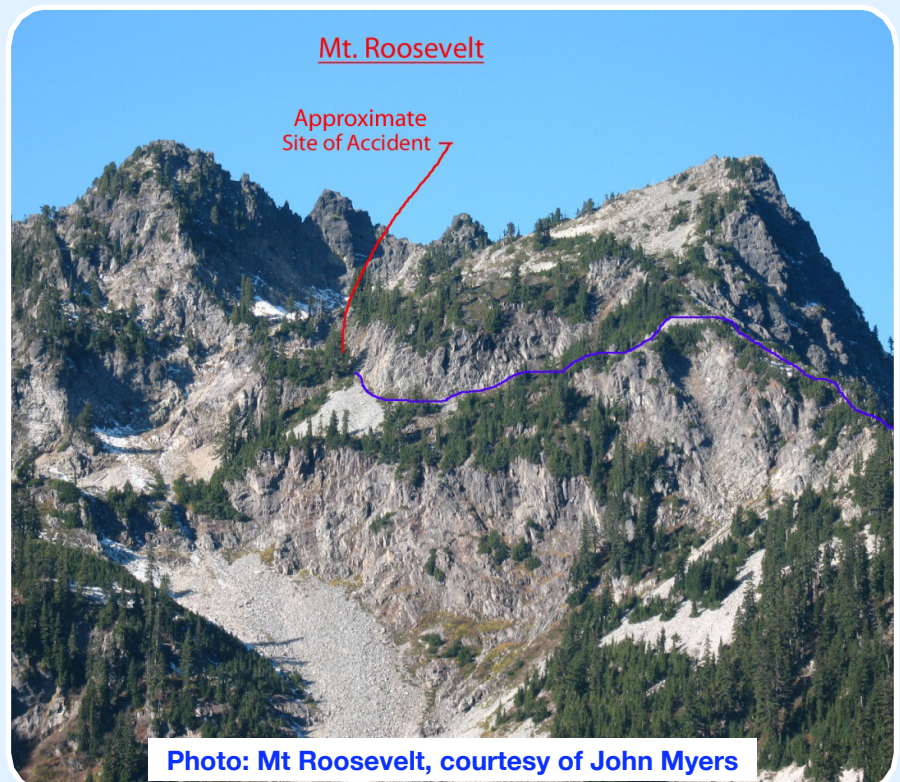
On two occasions the subjects came to the monthly meeting to offer their appreciation and a donation. Complete mission reports are provided on pages: 2, 4, 5 & 6.

Hurricane Ridge Winter Standby

Winter standby up at Hurricane Ridge is upon us and OMR needs you to start signing up for the weekends listed on page 7. Contact John Stieber to sign up or if you have any questions.

TRAINING

The training schedule for the next three months is provided on page 2.



NEW RADIOS



Motorola HT1250 Radios

KDEM obtained 12 Motorola HT1250 radios from the Bremerton Police Department that meet the new FEMA requirements for narrow and wide band. 6 radios with chargers were issue to OMR members and the remaining 6 are located with the truck at the fire hall. Many thanks to Mac, Dick & Tony for inspecting, upgrading, repairing and programing the new radios!

Note: User guides are in the truck.

Mission No: 2008-1 (DEM 08-1589)

Date: May 31-June 1

Location: Mt Ellinor; Mason County

Type: Injured Climbers

Field Team: Steve Leslie (OL), Margaret Brownell, Andy Graham, Dick Waldo, Rick Lorenz, John Myers, Peter Ozimek and Joel Pomerinke

In Town Coordinator: Roger Beckett, Jim Groh

KCSO Deputy Ammon called at 1630 Saturday for an assist in Mason County with a 54 y.o. female climber in the Mt Ellinor Chute with a broken leg. A Mason County fireman climber was able to radio for help. After talking with Mark Henderson (Mason DEM) a callout was made and most of the team was departing home in less than an hour with others following. Graham and Lorenz were the first to arrive at the lower Mt Ellinor trail head about 1900. During transit it was learned that there were an additional two climbers (male and female) that had been struck by a large piece of ice or hard snow up high in the Ellinor Chute. Both had degrees of head or neck injuries.

Myers contacted the trip leader of the lower group and provided the following: The injured woman from their group is Karla Piecuch. She broke her tibia while glissading. She is an experienced hiker/scrambler (been to Nepal, climbed Ellinor 15+ times) who took the OC class a few years ago. It sounded like a freak accident. It happened at 2:30 in the afternoon, and the group was able to get her lowered to the bottom of the chute, and make a fire while waiting for help. There was a Mason County volunteer firefighter on the mountain at the time with a radio who called in help. The Mason county firefighters who arrived on scene brought a soft litter and morphine and were not real comfortable to proceed to the higher elevation and the other injured climbers.

The OMR team headed up toward the top of the Chute with the hope that a helicopter would be available and with the possibility that it would not, Tacoma Mountain Rescue was requested via the IC, Deputy Western. Pierce County also provided a fixed wing aircraft (with Jeff Sharp TMR) to fly over the area and spot the accident site. After the advanced team arrived at the upper accident site, Graham did the medical assessment and a helicopter was requested. Tacoma Mountain Rescue arrived before 2300 and proceeded up to the upper parking lot/trail head and held for further assistance and guarded the sandwiches provided by the Mason County chuck wagon.

A TMR person remained at Base and worked with Deputy Western. The Navy at Whidby Island NAS responded and felt that a night time pickup would be preferred as the morning weather did not look promising. The female subject was packaged and rigged down and over about 300' to a better LZ on the E side of the Chute, about 4900'. By this time the male subject was feeling less shaky and was able to walk down to the LZ. The Navy arrived about 0200 Sunday and picked up both subjects and took them to Harborview in Seattle.

The OMR team was back home by 0800.

Lisa Song (upper accident subject) sent an email to Graham with the following info:

"I got home from HarborView Hospital this morning. We are all fine. No spine/bone injuries at all. Just some bruises to recover. Wish everyone got down the snowy trail safely, hope you got some good rest after such intense rescue period."

(continued on page 3)

Next Three Months Of Training

Monthly Meeting Training

MONTH	TOPIC	LEADER
13-Jan	Avalanche Beacon	Greg Barron
10-Feb	First Aid-CPR-BBP	Andy Graham
10-Mar	Helicopter ground school	TBD

Monthly Field Training

MONTH	TOPIC	LOCATION	LEADER
13-Jan	Avalanche Beacon	Hurricane Ridge	Greg Barron
10-Feb	First Aid-CPR-BBP	Fire Hall	Andy Graham
TBD-Mar	Helicopter ground school	USCG Station, Port Angeles	TBD

Continued from page 2- Mission No: 2008-1

"Thanks to everyone's heroic rescue effort to help us stay safe and warm, get to the hospital smoothly and get home healthy. We are forever grateful and can never thank anyone enough!"

"We got to the hospital 2-3 am smoothly. Doctor gave us lots of tests: blood and x-ray, gave us IV with warm fluid. X-ray and everything showed NO bone / spine injury. Your initial diagnose on the slope was pretty accurate."

"We are all safe with you and great teams rescue effort. We were released from the hospital around 7 am. Our friends came to pick us up. Just some bruises for Bing on the back. It still hurt a bit, hope will recover soon."

"My right fingers were just frost nips from touching the snow. Your diagnose of not-neck related is correct. I slide down, with left hand with glove, right hand without glove. I totally forgot that and didn't connect that as a factor. I realized that in the hospital and told the doc. I still feel a bit numb for my finger tips, but should recover soon (Dr: avoid cold water for 2 weeks). Some minor frost bruises on my face/lips due to sliding against snow. I should look normal soon ;-)"

Total Personnel: 10
Total Hours: 117
Total Mileage: 1200

Mission No: 2008-2 (DEM 08-1690)

Date: June 8-9
Location: Mt Ellinor; Mason County
Type: Injured Climber

Field Team: Steve Leslie (OL), Andy Graham, Dick Waldo, John Myers, Loring Bemis, John Ellsworth, John Myers and Trevor Bemis (recruited on the trail)
In Town Coordinator: Roger Beckett, Jim Groh

KCSO Deputy Malloque called at 1530 Sunday to request OMR assist a woman climber injured on Mt Ellinor. A callout was immediately started to get a first response crew. After talking with Mark Henderson (Mason DEM) it was learned that the patient, Renee Smith, 40 of Olympia, had a dislocated shoulder and a knee injury. She was located someplace in the Ellinor Chute. Henderson also reported poor weather over the mountain and that helicopter support was not likely to happen. Beckett advised that Tacoma Mountain Rescue should be contacted for an additional 5 or 6 personnel to assist in the carryout. OMR people began arriving at the SAR Base at the Lower Ellinor Trail head about 1900 and the first team

headed out about 1930. The injured person and her party were reached about 2130, lowering commenced at 2215 and Tacoma Mountain Rescue team arrived to assist. The stretcher was lowered about 800' (four setups) on steep snow to the bottom of the chute and then down through the timber. The wheel was attached to the stretcher and used part of the way down the trail and on the snow free road. The upper road has a large washout that had to be crossed. Personnel arrived back at Base with the stretcher about 0240 Monday. The truck was back in Bremerton at 0530 and everyone home by 0630.

Total Personnel: 10
Total Hours: 114
Total Mileage: 975

Mission No: 2008-3 (DEM 08-1745)

Date: June 12-14
Location: Nisqually River; Pierce County
Type: River Search

Field Team (13th): Steve Leslie (OL), Dick Waldo, John Myers, John Myers
Field Team (14th): Tony DiBenedetto (OL), Jason Bausher, Mike Vanderslice
In Town Coordinator: Jim Groh, Roger Beckett

KCSO Deputy Young called Beckett at 2300 on the 12th asking OMR to support rigging needs by the Pierce County Swift Water Rescue Team. There had been a boating accident on the lower Nisqually River where three adults and two children had been dumped from a boat. Two adults made it from the water and the body of one child was recovered. An adult and a child were still missing.

The Leslie team arrived at the SAR Base just East of I5(6th avenue) at 0600 and worked with Incident Commander Sgt. Trent Stevens and Seattle and Tacoma mountain rescue personnel rigging high lines to assist boaters and divers doing the water search. Numerous setups were made throughout the day. This team returned back home in the evening.

The DiBenedetto team left Westgate late on the 13th and spent part of the night near the search base with Tacoma MR members. Similar rigging was done on the 14th with Tacoma MR. The search was called off early in the afternoon and the team returned back to Kitsap and home. No additional bodies were recovered.

Total Personnel: 9
Total Hours: 135
Total Mileage: 1000

Mission No: 2008-4 (DEM 08-2779)

Date: August 26-27
Location: Three Fingers Peak; Snohomish County
Type: Rescue

Field Team: Steve Leslie (OL), Andrew Higgins, Peter Ozimek; Mac MacDowell (Base)
In-Town Radio: Dick Waldo
In Town Coordinator: Roger Beckett

KCSO Deputy Young called Beckett at 2345 on the 26th asking OMR to support Snohomish County in the rescue of three young men near the summit of Three Fingers Peak. State DEM had requested 3 or 4 additional mountain rescue personnel as soon as possible. The OMR team left Westgate at 0130 and arrived at SAR Base at the Three Fingers Trailhead out of Granite Falls about 0500 after driving via Tacoma. After being assigned to ferry a stretcher the approximately 8 miles to the accident site they departed Base about 0600. SAR Base had hopes of a helicopter evacuation but with bad weather and mixed reports on the health of the subjects, the ground support effort seemed to wax and wane with the rain. After several miles the team was told to drop the stretcher along the trail and proceed up the mountain. By mid-afternoon the rescue subjects were starting to get the idea that another night out would not be smart and were coaxed into walking off the mountain. A lucky weather break allowed two of them to be air lifted out. After proceeding about 7 miles the OMR team turned back to the trailhead.

The news item below gives a good general account of the incident. This was the first mission for the new 2008 F350 truck.

Total Personnel: 6
Hours: 94
Miles: 370

**OMR SKY
DIVING!**



A Paratrooper Rescue Team?

OMR does not have one (yet)... but we need more stories and pictures. Please send announcements, pictures, etc. to: mail@olympicmountainrescue.org.

Mission No: 2008-5 (DEM 08-2986)

Date: September 14-15

Location: Mt Washington; Mason County

Type: Rescue

Field Team: John Stieber(OL), Andrew Higgins, Steve Leslie, John Myers, Loring Bemis, Dick Waldo, Mac MacDowell (Base)

In Town Coordinator: Roger Beckett, Jim Groh

KCSO Deputy Mark Malloque called Beckett about 1630 on the 14th asking OMR to assist Mason County with an injured hiker on Mt Washington. After first reports that the subject had a broken leg, Beckett was able to speak with the Incident Commander MCSO Sgt Trevor Severance and learned that exhaustion was the hikers issue and that before dark he had been spotted on the mountain. His hiking partner had come down for help and was providing useful information Both middle aged men were from the Milton -Puyallup area.

They had started out hiking with the idea of going up the mountain via route 1 and doing the Washington-Ellinor traverse. They were unable to find the trail at the road, instead locating a pathway further to the east up the drainage between routes 2 and 4. This took them into the cliffy area below the Shield Wall and Route 2.

Stieber was designated the OL and the truck was able to depart Westgate about 1800. SAR base was near the

Jefferson Pass trail head where the team arrived about 1945.

The location of the subject could be clearly seen in the daylight and after dark he would periodically use his flashlight. The weather was reasonably warm and there was a full moon. The subject was well equipped for the evening.

After dividing into two teams and leaving Macdowell at SAR base, the team of Stieber, Myers and Bemis departed first and ascended more or less up Route 2 which was not easy to find in the dark. Generally they had to approach by bearing up and right, then crossing above the subject and descending to his location. Base could determine individual positions from team headlamps. Myers rappelled the last 70' to the subject reaching him about midnight. The subject was belayed up the route and then they began working down the route in a safer location. Leslie, Higgins and Waldo held at a spot where they could assist on the descent and everyone was back to the road about 0330. Beckett and Groh delivered high energy food and assisted MacDowell at Base until it was known the subject was reached by the OMR team. All home about 0600.

Note: Radio communications worked well. There was no cell service nor satellite service at SAR Base. There is an ice ax someplace in the brush.

Total Personnel: 9

Total Hours: 105

Total Mileage: 625

Mission No: 2008-6 (DEM 08-3148)

Date: September 28

Location: The Brothers; Jefferson County

Type: Rescue

Field Team: Steve Leslie (OL), John Stieber, John Myers, Dick Waldo, John Myers, Rick Lorenz, Derek Boyden, Tony Dibenedetto and Susan Rivard-Dibenedetto

In-Town Radio: Roger Beckett, Jim Groh

About 0230 on the 28th, Beckett took a call from Deputy McCarty from Jefferson County. He advised that he had requested the State DEM to contact us for some assistance in getting a 44 year old woman with a hip injury off The Brothers. She was in stable condition at about 6100' on Route 1 and had a person with her on the mountain. Food, clothing were available and the weather was good. Two others in the party had hiked out for assistance after helping her

OMR CLIMBING FORUM

Remember you can organize trips and post reports on the OMR climber forum:

<http://olympicmountainrescue.org/forum/>

descend a short distance from where she had taken a slip on loose rock. It was later discovered that "Lisa" lived in Kitsap County not far from Camp Union. At least two in the party were equipped with bicycle helmets and tennis shoes but its not known if they were hikers or climbers. Beckett later contacted Kitsap County officer Mike Grant.

Not knowing for sure the extent of the injury, the possibility of helicopter support (or not) a strong team was assembled which included our MD. As things unfolded, Jefferson County was advised by the State that a helicopter would not be available.

The OMR team with the truck left Westgate about 0430: Rick from Tacoma and Tony and Susie from Port Angeles, arriving at the Lena Lake trailhead between 0600-0630.

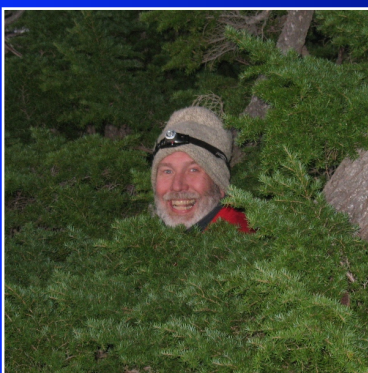
First to leave SAR Base were two climbers from Jefferson County Search and Rescue (JSAR) who acted at the hasty team to get to the subject. The OMR people were on the trail by 0700. Climbers Camp was reached by 1030 (6.2 miles). After a short break they proceeded up to the rocky area just below Lunch Rock. The JSAR team was ahead and had met the "injured" and her partner slowly coming off the mountain at about 5200' (just above Lunch Rock). After being roped up they continued on down until meeting with the OMR team. The rigging equipment and the stretcher were not needed. Everyone came down together helping the injured with her equipment. When the regular trail was reached the party was able to pick up the pace and everyone was back to the trailhead by about 1800. After some dinner at Brinnon all arrived home by 2230.

Total Personnel: 11

Hours: 175

Miles: 648

WHERE'S WALDO?



Having fun on Mt Roosevelt

Dick Waldo pokes his head out trees for a photo to share where the OMR team took a rest after the subject was air lifted of by the Coast Guard.

Photo: courtesy of John Myers.

Mission No: 2008-7 (DEM 08-3460)

Date: October 26-27

Location: Mt. Roosevelt, King County

Type: Rescue

Field Team: Dick Waldo (OL), John Myers, John Myers, Andrew Higgins, Peter Ozimek

In-Town Coordinator: Roger Beckett

About 1720 on the 26th, Beckett took a call from KCSO Deputy Andy Aman regarding a rescue near Snoqualmie Pass and King County needing some additional technical support as soon as possible. A Seattle climber (36yo Thomas Landgren) had fallen at least 100' on Mt Roosevelt and had head and neck injuries. The climbing partner (42yo Peggy Nelsen) was able to get to a cell phone reception location and call 911. Two from Seattle

Mountain Rescue were with the subject but because of high winds the King county helicopter was unable to make a pick up. As the OMR call was being made the Whidbey Island Navy helicopter was going to give it a try. Again winds were too strong and after some time lingering in the area they went back to base.

The OMR team was able to leave about 1830 from Westgate and proceeded to SAR base at the Alpentel parking lot. Ozimek maintained base and the other four departed up the trail about 2200 and reached Gem Lake about 0130. A Tacoma MR team was a short way ahead with a stretcher and equipment but had dropped the rigging gear at Gem Lake so the OMR team moved that on up to the ridge leading to the summit. About 0300 a Coast Guard helicopter arrived for another try as winds diminished and after

dropping some fuel they were able to pick up the injured climber at 0350. The Rescue Swimmer was left with the mountain team and the helicopter returned at 0517 to pick him up. About sunrise the OMR team proceeded further up the mountain to meet the Tacoma team and the Seattle team bringing down the uninjured climbing partner. Considerable ice on the rock made going slow. All teams dropped down to Gem Lake where WESAR people were waiting to help carry out equipment. All departed Gem Lake and reached the SAR Base at the Alpentel parking lot about 1300. Home by 1700.

Total Personnel: 6

Hours: 60

Miles: 204

Hurricane Ridge Winter Standby

Winter stand by up at Hurricane Ridge is upon us and OMR needs you to sign up for the weekends listed below.

Jan 3 - 4	Feb 7 - 8	Mar 7 - 8
Jan 17 - 18	Feb 14 - 15	Mar 14 - 15
Jan 24 - 25	Feb 21 - 22	Mar 21 - 22
Jan 31 - Feb 1	Feb 28 - Mar 1	Mar 28 - 29

When you arrive at Hurricane Ridge for winter standby, please sign in on the roster in the rescue cache. When you leave after your days or weekend of winter standby, please contact John Stieber to ensure supplies are available (e.g. batteries etc) and your volunteer hours are reported to KDEM. If you have not been up there on standby before please think about going up with an experienced person the first time. Contact John Stieber to sign up or if you have any questions.

OMR VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR THE HURRICANE RIDGE 2008 SEASON

MISSION 08-T-1014-	DATES	VOLUNTEER/HOURS
A	5-Jan	Road closed
A	6-Jan	Cass Whelan (7), Joel Pomerinke (7)
B	12-Jan	Greg Barron (8)
B	13-Jan	Connie Ozimek (32), Pete Ozimek (32)
C	19-Jan	Rick Lorenz, Greg Barron (8), Steve Leslie (8)
C	20-Jan	Joel Pomerinke (8), Rick Lorenz (32 - full weekend)
D	26-Jan	N/A
D	27-Jan	Susie DiBenedetto (9)
E	2-Feb	Pete Ozimek, Susie DiBenedetto (7), Tony DiBenedetto (7)
E	3-Feb	Cass Whelan (8), Susie DiBenedetto (7) Pete Ozimek (32 - full weekend)
F	9-Feb	Joel Pomerinke (7)
F	10-Feb	Joel Pomerinke (7)
G	16-Feb	Jason Bausher, Greg Barron (8)
G	17-Feb	Greg Barron (8), Mac MacDowell (7), Jason Bausher (32 - full weekend)
H	23-Feb	OMR Field Training: Greg Barron (7), Steve Leslie (7), Chris Claesson (7), Rick Lorenz (7), Peter Ozimek (7), Andrew Higgins (7), John Myers (7), Dick Waldo (7), Jim Groh (7), Loring Bemis (7), John Myers (7), Joel Pomerinke (7)
H	24-Feb	Rick Lorenz (7), Myers (7),
I	1-Mar	Rick Lorenz
I	2-Mar	Joel Pomerinke (6), Rick Lorenz (32 - full weekend)
J	8-Mar	Greg Barron (8), Joel Pomerinke (6),
J	9-Mar	Case Whelan (7), Jim Groh (32 - full weekend)
K	15-Mar	OMR Field Training: Greg Barron (7), Steve Leslie (7), John Stieber (7), Andy Graham, Peter Ozimek (7), Rick Lorenz (7), Susie DiBenedetto (7), Tony DiBenedetto (7), Andrew Higgins (7), John Myers (7), Dick Waldo (7), Jim Groh (7), Case Whelan (7), Loring Bemis (7), Hiatt (7), Joel Pomerinke (7)
K	16-Mar	Tony DiBenedetto (6), Andy Graham (32 - full weekend)
L	21-Mar	Tony DiBenedetto (7)
L	23-Mar	Case Whelan (7)

OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Introduction

Olympic Mountain Rescue is a volunteer organization dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education. OMR is one of seven Mountain Rescue Association units that operate in Washington State. Collectively, OMR members have hundreds of years of mountaineering experience in the Olympics. We are a skilled group of volunteer climbers dedicated to wilderness rescue and safety education.

Our Purpose

We specialize in search and rescue operations in rugged wilderness areas involving high angle rock, snow and ice. We also provide technical expertise for search and rescue on rivers, canyons, heavy timber, brush and aircraft searches. Though most of our work takes place on the Olympic Peninsula, we often operate in conjunction with other Washington state rescue units along the Cascades, from Mt. St. Helens to Mt. Baker.

Our Mission

In addition to rescue work, we actively promote back country safety. In particular, we participate in educational seminars of interest to the outdoor community, help local schools with mountaineering programs, distribute a variety of safety brochures and show outdoor safety films to interested groups. We also authored the "Climber's Guide to the Olympic Mountains," published by the Mountaineers.

Visit for more information about OMR
www.olympicmountainrescue.org



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE

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