



OLYMPIC MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER

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

Missions

Mission No: 2005-2 (DEM 05-0656)
Date : March 13
Location : Mt. Pilchuck, Snohomish County
Type : Rescue (turn around)

Personnel : (Field Team) Margaret Brownell (OL),
John Stieber, Dick Waldo, Sarah Armstrong.
(In Town) Jim Groh , Steve Leslie.

Kitsap Co. DEM called Groh at 2140 asking if OMR could assist Snohomish Co. in a cliff rescue for a fallen hiker near the summit of Mt Pilchuck. Groh made a confirmation call to State DEM to for more details of mission, then started callout at 2150.

Within half an hour, a team was assembled by paging and direct calls to members. Plans were to leave from Westgate Firehall at 2330 and drive around through Tacoma, since the ferries were shutting down for the night.

At 2235, a page came from DEM that the victim was found deceased and OMR should not report. Groh made another confirmation call to DEM to verify no services needed on the following day for body recovery. 119 page and calls were made to the team and all pagers/cell phones to call off the mission.

Details on the incident obtained mainly from the news: 19 year old male from Everett was hiking in "tennis" shoes with a friend. He was approx. 300 yards below the summit and slipped on ice, went over a cliff. Plans were to do a helicopter body recovery the next day(Monday). Early reports by first responders to the scene claimed hearing sounds from below the cliff, hence the initial request for ASAP turnout

Total Personnel : 6

Total Hours : 9

Total Mileage : 0

Prepared by Jim Groh with input from Margaret Brownell

Meeting

Next meeting : Tuesday, April 12th.

Sceduled training for the evening is to be Radios by Tony DiBenedetto and Rescue Packs by Mark Hendrickson.

Training

Upcoming training : Due to schedule conflicts both trainings for the month of April have changes in dates.

First the **Fundamental Training** is not on April 2nd. If you were interested and wanted to attend contact Steve Leslie to get the new date of this training. The Fundamental Training was rescheduled for the benefit of the newer people in the unit, so that they could attend this basic training.

The second training, **Transitional Lowering** (or multi-pitch lowering) is now scheduled for Sat. 23rd. This training is going to be in an entirely different area from where we normally train. If you plan on driving, see the driving directions below. The truck will be leaving the firehall at 0700, with training scheduled to begin at 0830.

You must be able to go up and down on the rope. So, a rappel device and prussiks, in addition to full harness and helmet, are required. This training will be almost entirely in a high exposure environment, requiring high attention to safe rigging. Much direct supervision will be available. As all teams will be participating at each station, this will be a long day .

Access: From US 101 drive up the Hamma Hamma River road USFS 25 to USFS road 2502 (0.15 miles short of the Jefferson Lake / Lena Lake turn off). We will have a small sign pointing the way at this point. Drive 1.1 miles up the road. At about 1 mile you will enter larger second growth on both sides of the road. Look for a trail heading south (left) into the woods. Park here and walk about 200 yards to the top of the rock. Easiest hiking to the base of the rock is on the east side.

Winter Standby

While winter seems to be trying to make a come back, the amount of snow up on Hurricane Ridge is still very low. After discussion with Park personnel, it was decided to cancel the remaining stand by weekends on the Ridge. You are still welcome to come up and patrol, though there may be little to do. If you do decide to try and go up, please call ahead to find out the road conditions, especially considering the odd weather we have been having lately.



*Looking east from Mt Angelas
winter of 2005*

Board Vacancy

For personal reasons Paul Gelineau has decided to put himself on inactive status. This will leave a vacancy on the Board. Per the by-laws of the unit and due to the amount of time left in his vacated position, a new person needs to be voted in by the general membership. Nominations will held at the March/April meetings, with a vote at the April meeting. Currently, Andy Graham is the only nominee up for the position.

Climbing Corner

John Ellsworth has two climbs planned for the spring. A climb of Mt Washington is scheduled for Friday, April 22nd. Depending on the snow level, the current plan is to try the North East Ridge route. During the time frame of May 28th through June 1st, he is heading for Mt Olympus via the Hoh River Trail. If you are interested in participating, please contact John Ellsworth at 779-5382 or jmellsworth@silverlink.net.

John and Forrest Stieber also are planning an extended hike and climb from July 26th through July 30. This hike will entail some cross country travel as well as a few summit climbs. It will start at Lena Lake and follow the ridge line towards First Divide. If you are interested in this adventure please contact John Stieber at 830-0914 or janddstieber@earthlink.net.

Summer Stand By

I will be stepping in for Duane for the summer Standby Roster. There will be a couple of changes this year as the board has agreed to end Summer Standby at the end of August. (Due to the number of rescue/operation leaders), this will require at least 2 weekends per person and will leave 2 or 3 weekends without an O.L. Therefore; it will be advisable that the newer or novice personal team up with veteran rescue or rescue support persons.

Please keep in mind that the weekend you commit to may have a mission that spills over into Monday, so make sure it will be compatible with your employment or engagement calendar. Once you've signed up it is your responsibility to acquire a replacement and notify the other person on standby for that weekend. I will be filling slots in the order I receive them at (360) 697-4518 or e-mail me at herndon7@hotmail.com

Thank You

Shawn Herndon

The stand by roster is at the end of this newsletter.

Words to Think About

If you keep your head in the sand,
You will leave something else exposed

Author Unknown

Previous Helicopter Training

Back on March 19th, we had an excellent helicopter training. This training was set up, with some help, by Joel Pomeriki. Joel and fellow Coast Guardsman Jason Graff (prospective OMR member) conducted the training at Ediz Hook, in Port Angelas.

Helicopter flight time was generously donated by the Coast Guard Air Station. A special thanks goes out to the pilot, who gave up his personal time to fly for the training. Again thanks to Joel and Jason for setting up such an outstanding training.



Words from the Editor

This newsletter is always trying to get the most accurate information out to you. However at times, some information comes too late to put into the newsletter, such as training dates or topics. I will try to correct these errors when possible.

Another item of concern to me is getting the newsletter to you. If you do not receive a newsletter directly or wish to read it online at the OMR website, please contact me to update my address data base. If you know of a new person to the group, let them know to get a hold of me so they can be put on the mailing list as soon as possible.

I am not trying to do an end run around the person who keeps the personnel records for the group, but sometimes it takes a while for the information to filter down to me. So, if you have had your paperwork in for a while and are not getting a newsletter, please contact myself or Mac MacDowell.

With that said, if there is any change in your personal information, please contact one of the board members to update your files as soon as possible.

John Stieber
Editor

Summer Standby 2005

June 4, 5, 6

July 2, 3, 4

July 30, 31, & Aug.1

August 27, 28, 29

Jason Bausher

June 11, 12, 13

July 9, 10, 11

August 6, 7, 8

John Stieber

Steve Leslie

Shawn Herndon

June 18, 19, 20

July 16, 17, 18

August 13, 14, 15

June 25, 26, 27

July 23, 24, 25

August 20, 21, 22

Shawn Herndon