



**Calendar**

March	7	7:00pm	<u>UNIT MEETING</u> -- Training: <b>ICS and Tabletop Search</b> by <i>Anne Greenwood</i>
March	15	7:00pm	<u>TRAINING SESSION</u> -- <b>Search Techniques and Tracking</b> by <i>Jon Sears</i>
March	18	Callout	<b>Mock Mission on Marys Peak</b>
March	27	7:00pm	<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING</u> in Salem
April	4	7:00pm	<u>UNIT MEETING</u> -- Training: <b>Anchors and Anchor Systems</b> by <i>Jeff Gent</i>
April	15	9:00am	OMRC Reaccreditation of Hood River Crag Rats
	16	9:00am	OMRC accreditation of Deschutes Co. SAR at Hayrick Butte and Oregon Region practice at Hayrick Butte.
April	19	7:00pm	<u>TRAINING SESSION</u> -- <b>Rescue Equipment and Litter Rigging</b> by Jim Dagata
April	22	9:00am	<u>SKILLS WORKSHOP</u> -- at the Truck Bay
April	24	7:00pm	<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING</u>
April	29	7:00am	<u>McDONALD FOREST RUN</u>

MARCH UNIT MEETING -- at the Law Enforcement Building, Corvallis

This month's Unit Meeting will be held in the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) in the basement of the Law Enforcement Center. The change of location supports this month's training (ICS). Access to the building is through the door on 5<sup>th</sup> Street across from the Courthouse. Please bring and wear your county identification. If you do not have the access code, please wait by the door to be escorted by a Unit Member.

MAGENTIC NORTH POLE -- on the move, still

The magnetic North Pole is of great significance to those of us who use handheld compasses in land navigation since it anchors a line of position (Magnetic North) against which we make angular measurements (magnetic azimuth -- and by inference, true azimuth). But that anchor point is moving northnorthwest and as a consequence, the angle between True North and Magnetic North (commonly called **declination**) is slowly changing. In this part of the world, declination is changing about one degree every ten years.

Presently in the Central Oregon Cascades, the declination is about 17.5 degrees East. That is considerably different than what is printed on most maps. Even the most current USGS maps show declinations circa 1970's-1980's and may be as much as three degrees in error. Remembering that for each degree of error, one is displaced 92 feet per mile, being off by three degrees could put you into the wrong drainage.

Scott Linn points out a valuable utility which predicts declination anywhere in the world from 1900 until 2005. The program, called **GeoMag**, is available as freeware from Garry Petrie and can be downloaded as a self-extracting file from:

<http://home.europa.com/~gp/geomag.html>

The file is about 1.7 Megabytes (MB) so it may take a while to download. It expands into a 1 MB program and about 1.6 MB of *help* and other *information*. Another very nice feature about this program is that it is also an excellent UTM/Lat-Long converter. The latter utility is particularly nice if you are working with DeLorme mapping products which support Latitude/Longitude but not UTM coordinates.

WELCOME ABOARD --

The Unit would like to welcome Joseph Brody (4 Rescue 26) and Brad Edwards (4 Rescue 27) as Associate members. Joseph is a student at OSU and comes from central California where he has previous SAR experience with Marin County. Brad works at Peak (.org not Sports) and is assisting Joy and Scott with matters related to the webpage.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRAINING -- revisited

by Jeff Gent

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, five of us headed up the Skyline Trail to a destination about 2.5 miles in. The weather was absolutely perfect, perhaps even too good as the soft snow started balling up under our skis after a while. In attendance were Jon, Lindsay, Jeff, Dale, and Kathy. The intent was to work on our winter travel and camping skills as well as a bit of avalanche practice.

Navigation was left to Jon and Lindsay who had GPS units, though we mostly relied on little bits of red flagging that marked the way. Lindsay's familiarity with the area filled in any gaps. The rest of us (well, I should only speak for myself) focused on skiing. I have this wonderful little altimeter watch but failed, as usual, to use any of it's recording capabilities so I've no statistics on our ski time, elevation gain, etc.

We arrived at our destination and set up camp. Lindsay shall forever be *The Lawn Chair Man* for carrying in not only a lawn chair, but a Crazy Creek chair as well. Jon had his Megamid, Dale and Kathy dug a lovely little cave, and I made a three sided snow box to act as windbreak for my bivy bag.

After that was set up we had enough time for a little ski before sundown. Lindsay and I went to the top of a knoll while the rest went around it. After a lovely sunset we all gathered back at camp, did the dinner thing, and then hung out waiting for a beautiful full moon to come up into a clear night sky. Eventually we all drifted off to our beds. About 0100 I found out one wee problem with my little snow box -- I was surrounded by three white walls under a blazing full moon (a lunar cooker?). I could read my watch clearly by the light but couldn't get away from it without crawling completely into my bivy. I'm sorry to report, though, that I wasn't disturbed enough to want to get out of that bivy and take a moonlit photo of camp, which the digital camera would have done just fine.

I was pleased to wake up again and find the moon hidden fully by the clouds, though the result was that we awoke at sunrise to the beginnings of a light snow. Camp was broken and we worked our way out, deciding to bag the avalanche practice. Navigation was trivial, just follow our tracks out. The snow was a bit faster, and it was more downhill. The snow continued, lightly but with big flakes, and there was a small amount of wind. A fine trip, one that did wonders for my skiing with a pack technique (doing wonders for my telemark turns) as well as allowing me to shake down a few other additions to the gear rack.

MARCH FIELD PRACTICE -- search

This month's field practice will take place on Saturday, March 18, and will start with a pageout on Friday night. The practice search will take place on Marys Peak so travel should be kept to a minimum. We all know what sort of weather to expect in the Coast Range during March so come prepared to be "in it." Also, for those who have never been "off road" or "off trail" on Marys Peak, expect slippery footing so a (ski) pole might be in order to help with balance (in addition to being a tracking stick).

OMRC WEEKEND -- April 15/16

The third weekend of each year has been designated by OMRC as the annual weekend for reaccreditation of Oregon Region teams. It is also a time for teams to work together to refine skills and share knowledge. On Saturday of this year, the Hood River Crag Rats are scheduled to undergo their reaccreditation evaluation in all three phases of MRA accreditation. Since CMRU will be evaluated next year, observing this year's event would be of great value to those who have never participated in a reaccreditation evaluation.

On Sunday, Deschutes county SAR will be evaluated in the Winter Rescue Module to complete their MRA accreditation as a Full member. Deschutes county SAR completed their Rock and Search modules last year, and they have been accepted as an ex-officio member of MRA.

On Sunday afternoon, the OMRC teams will combine to do a technical evacuation problem on Hayrick. Depending on the level of participation by the various teams, this could be a very interesting problem involving a long, steeply sloping highline.