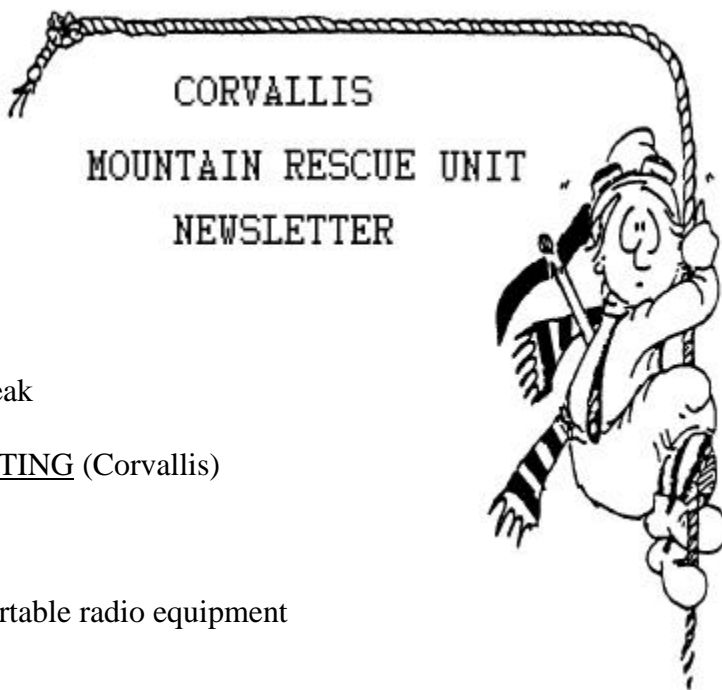


Calendar

- May 1 7:00pm UNIT MEETING -- Training:
Truck Clean-up and Inventory
- May 16 7:00pm TRAINING SESSION -- Use of
Truck's Electronic Equipment
- May 19 Pageout PRACTICE MISSION -- Mary's Peak
- May 29 7:00pm EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (Corvallis)
- June 5 7:00pm SUMMER SOCIAL --
- June 20 7:00pm TRAINING SESSION -- Use of portable radio equipment
- June 23/24 TBA UNIT CLIMB --
- June 25 7:00pm EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (Salem)



MRA REACCREDITATION -- revisited

by Bob Freund, President

Every four years, each MRA team in the Oregon Region undergoes peer review by teams of the Oregon Mountain Rescue Council to maintain their rescue accreditation in the Mountain Rescue Association. This year, it was CMRU's turn to be evaluated in Rock, Search, and Winter Rescue modules. We unconditionally passed all three modules.

Did we do it without mistakes? No. Rarely does a "live" performance occur without mistakes. Did we perform better than four years ago? **Yes.** Our training program has been configured to address the areas needing attention and to bring our new members up to a level of competence necessary for safe, efficient SAR operations. Do we need to make further adjustments in the training program? Yes. Results from this year's evaluations show CMRU has a firm handle on the mechanics, and needs to now focus attention on the next level(s) -- field and operational management. But at the same time, we still need to ensure members (new and "old" alike) are adequately instructed in the mechanics of rigging and operating SAR systems.

We have the right to feel good about the number of members who turned out, and for the great job they did. But we shouldn't feel too smug. We still need to work toward doing it better, faster, safer, and more smoothly (especially "at the edge"). Although our equipment worked as we wanted it to, there is room for improvement here too. Had the weather been different, our patient protection scheme would likely have been less than desirable. Remember, what we do, we do for the patient (or subject).

Finally, thanks to all of you who attended the training sessions leading up to our quadrennial OMRC peer review. The training sessions allow us to all "get on the same page" when it comes to the rigging and operational matters. And the re-accreditation process makes sure we don't fall behind other teams in the region. By actively participating in the re-accreditation process on an annual basis (as evaluators), we gauge our techniques and equipment with respect to other teams in the Region.

TRUCK CLEAN-UP WORK PARTY -- at Unit Meeting

Following the business portion of this month's Unit Meeting, there will be a work party to clean the truck and to inventory all Unit gear. We'll need buckets, soap, rags, sponges, etc. for cleaning as well as hand tools for minor maintenance on the truck and other Unit equipment -- so bring a toolbox too. We'll be outside or in the garage (depending on weather) so dress appropriately.

If you have a project to be accomplished during this evening session, please contact Bob Freund to get it onto "the list."

McDONALD FOREST ULTRA-MARATHON -- revisited

This year's running of the McDonald Forest Ultra-Marathon (~50 Km foot race) took place under cloudy and sometimes rainy skies. In the morning, Jon Sears and Wayne Lederer were with the truck stationed near Soap Creek, and during the afternoon, Jim Dagata and Susan Leach were in the truck at Lewisburg Saddle.

NEW MEMBER -- welcome

Welcome Aboard to the Unit's newest member: Nate Vitagliano. Nate has outdoor experience from back East, and is looking forward to more exposure to PNW mountaineering. In filling out his equipment inventory, Nate has found an excellent sink for all the overtime pay he has recently earned.

FAREWELL -- Spencer

In mid-April, Spencer Wood pulled up stakes and headed off for New Zealand to pursue his career in Oceanography/Marine Biology. Thanks, Spencer, for your help with CMRU over the past years, and good luck "down under."

MRA MEMBERSHIP CARDS --

Membership cards from the Mountain Rescue Association have been received and will be distributed by Joy Linn at the next Unit Meeting. As with county ID cards, the card is the property of the parent organization (not the individual member) and needs to be returned when membership is terminated.

RE-ACCREDITATION -- a view from the back of the truck

by Susan Leach

Every four years we do this and every four years we get better. I always feel a lot of pride being part of such an excellent group of people, and a really cohesive team.

This year we showed the rest of the Mountain Rescue community the stuff we are made of. I was excited and amazed at how well our trainees performed in such stressful circumstances. This points out, not only the quality of people who have recently joined us, but also the leadership and training the older unit members are providing them.

I was especially pleased with the degree of teamwork that was involved in the equipment check out/check in. I especially want to thank Jim Wach for his ongoing help throughout the testing. (I think we have another radio operator here!) I also want to thank too many people to name them all for assisting here and there as needed. I noticed Scott walking around testing beacons. Jim Ruef spent some time unloading the batteries from the radios. Our newest member, Nate, was willing to do anything we asked him to. Jim Dagata and Kathy followed Jon and me to the county shops and helped hang ropes to dry. Jim returned later to inspect them and put them back into the truck.

I'm still working on the forms and methods for fast equipment check out, although I think the most helpful is the cooperation and help of the unit members. On Tuesday we will be having a truck turnout and this should help people familiarized themselves with the *what's* and *where's* of the truck layout.

In listening to the events on the radio, and watching the snow event through binocs, I could tell that the various functions of the tasks were being done efficiently and with a high degree of safety in mind.

A couple of communications things to keep in mind. When there are three Jim's it would be helpful to identify each by last name. When there is something in process, (like lowering) don't tie up the air with irrelevant traffic that could wait. Keep the base apprised of the patient's condition. I was especially pleased to note that traffic was for the most part kept brief and to a minimum. I only noticed one radio battery having problems. On a long mission, this could be a concern. **What a group!! Thanks for letting me be a part of it!**

MRA MEETING -- 43rd annual conference

The summer meeting of the Mountain Rescue Association will be held at Snoqualmie Pass, Washington, on June 20 - 24. On page 12 of the latest *Rescue Forum* is a story outlining some of the activities and seminars to be presented at this year's conference. The latest info may be found at: <http://pages.prodigy.net/eey/mra/mra.htm>.