



CORVALLIS

MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

NEWSLETTER

Calendar

- February 3 6:00pm UNIT MEETING – Training:
Callout Procedures by Joy Linn
- February 18 7:00pm TRAINING SESSION – **Map and
Compass/GPS Orienteering**
- February 21 9:00am FIELD TRAINING – **Circumnavigation of Mt. Washington**
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- February 23 7:00PM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
- February 26 7:00pm Benton County SAR Certification Classes begin
- March 2 7:00pm UNIT MEETING – Training: **Medical Scenarios**
- March 17 7:00pm TRAINING SESSION – **Anchor Systems**
- March 20/21 9:00am FIELD TRAINING – **Mock Mission/OMRC Scenarios**
- March 29 7:00pm EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

DUES ARE DUE – beyond due

At its last meeting, the Executive Committee reaffirmed dues for 2004 to be \$15 per member with an additional \$5 for those with a unit issued pager. Please send your dues to the Treasurer (Anne Greenwood) as soon as possible. Checks should be made payable to: Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit (or just CMRU) and can be mailed either to Anne directly or to the CMRU post office box (P.O. Box 116, Corvallis, OR 97339-0116).

JANUARY FIELD TRAINING – revisited

When CMRU plans a Snow Practice weekend, you can bet there will be *training* at least for a part of the time! Saturday was great – sunny, cool, and little wind. We spent time digging snow profiles, doing shovel-shear tests, and finally rutschblock tests – first on a slope with a “sunny” and windward aspect and then on a leeward and shaded aspect. While the layers that failed were the same at both locations, the density and metamorphosis of the snow was indeed different. Next was avalanche transceiver training until we could locate the “bunny” in less than two minutes. Some of the more *challenging* locations included “up a tree” rather than buried in the snow. Then came probeline training. Yes, it is possible to put 16 holes in a foam sitting pad and not know you “hit” the target!

Later that night, snow shelters were constructed for the hearty “overnighters.” Toward morning is when the *raining* part of training started to happen. But all survived, shook off the moisture, and setup for another day of *training* on Sunday.

On Sunday we practiced setting (and destroying *or trying to destroy*) snow anchors – flukes, pickets, bollard(s). Having done a snow profile the previous day was quite beneficial. We knew there was a large fairly dense, homogeneous layer of snow for the flukes. For those who had never worked with flukes before or who had nothing but bad experience with flukes, this was an enlightening revelation. Pickets worked too if the snow was boot packed and allowed to “set-up.”

After anchors, we went on to practice self-arrest. One thing about using the bed surface of an old avalanche – if you don’t get stopped before the debris field, the avalanche debris will definitely do it. Boy, do some of those frozen blocks hurt! Makes you want to get self-arrest down to an automatic response – no thinking (no time to think)!

Following lunch in the field, we set up a 600 foot lower from the top of the snow slope down to our LZ (lunch zone). This involved two stations and a switch of lowering/belay responsibility from one station to the next. Almost on cue, the battery on the “primary” radio at station two went dead. We learned/relearned a couple lessons during this part of the practice. (And we’ll share those at the next Unit meeting.)

NEW MEMBER – welcome, Becky

Becky Lyall was interviewed in January and is our latest Associate member. She is studying for a nursing degree and is currently a Certified Nursing Assistant. Becky will be helping out in Base for now; but she plans to get more mountaineering experience and upgrade through Trainee to Support (and maybe beyond).

INJURED RESERVE – Micheal

Micheal Beaufore is reported to have sustained a back injury which skiing at Willamette Pass and will be out of service for an indefinite period. Hopefully the injury is responding to treatment and he will be active with us in the near future.

FEBRUARY MEETING – earlier than usual

This month's Unit Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Benton County Sheriff's Office *Volunteer Recognition Ceremony*. That event will be held in the Corvallis Library beginning at 6pm. Following the presentations, CMRU will adjourn across 6th street to the Law Enforcement Building and we will hold a short meeting and training session in the EOC.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRAINING – stay tuned

This month's scheduled training is a winter circumnavigation of Mt. Washington; *but* Depending on snow conditions and predicted weather, expecting to make that trip (which many of us did in a couple hours during a summer training a few years ago) in two days might be quite optimistic. So, there has been some talk about poking around on the north side of the highway and see what the B&B fire left us in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. Check your email for the latest info.

CORVALLIS SKI SWAP, INC. – two members needed

There is agreement by both CMRU and Santiam Pass Ski Patrol to form a corporation to own and run the Corvallis Ski Swap for the sole benefit of CMRU and SPSP. As part of the new corporation, a five member Board of Directors needs to be formed with two members appointed by CMRU, two members appointed by SPSP, and one member appointed jointly by CMRU and SPSP. The ski patrol has appointed its two members and recommended Bob Freund be appointed jointly. CMRU now needs to appoint its two members and either affirm Bob's appointment or recommend another person. We hope to select the two members at the February Unit Meeting so the new corporation's Board of Directors can move forward with its organizational meeting and file its Articles of Incorporation with the State of Oregon.