



CORVALLIS

MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

NEWSLETTER

Calendar

- May 4 7:00pm UNIT MEETING – Training: **Knots, Hitches, and Bends** by *Scott Linn.*
- May 8 All Day **MacDonald Forest Ultramarathon** -- coordinated by *Jon Sears.*
- May 19 7:00pm TRAINING SESSION – **Raising & Lowering System and Litter Rigging** by *Anne Greenwood.*
- May 22/23 10:00am ROCK PRACTICE at Steelhead Falls coordinated by *Jim Dagata, Scott Linn, and Matt Crawford.*
- May 24 7:00pm EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
- June 1 7:00pm SUMMER SOCIAL at Walnut Park, Corvallis
- June 5 TBA OMRC Helicopter Phase II training, Salem
- June 16 7:00pm TRAINING SESSION – **Alpine Techniques** by *Jon Sears*
- June 18/19 TBA UNIT CLIMB – Mt. Jefferson (tentatively)
- June 28 7:00pm EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MISSION REPORT 04-02: Injured Climber, Mt. Jefferson

Member-hours: 67

On Sunday, April 25th Brent McGregor (51) and Tom Herron (40) climbed Mt. Jefferson and descended via the west side of the mountain. They had summited at 1730 and were descending unroped when shortly after 1900 Brent fell. In self-arresting his fall, Brent caught a crampon point and heard a pop and snap in his lower leg. He was unable to descend further and called for help on his cellphone. His call was received at the PSAP (911 center) in Stayton and they tapped out Gates Fire Department (before the call was turned over to the Linn County Sheriff). He was able to give his location from a GPS reading. Brent and Tom then prepared to spend the night on the mountain. The temperature remained above freezing throughout the night at their 7900 foot bivouac site with low winds and clear skies.

CMRU was initially informed of the incident at 2023 after Camp Sherman Hasty Team had been contacted. Joy paged a Stand-by at 2039. But Linn County then informed CMRU that we were not needed. Later, it was ascertained that the subjects were near the 8000 foot level of the mountain and we were activated. Three CMRU members arrived in base camp at 0230 and were teamed with three from Deschutes MRU who arrived about 0315. Equipment was divided between CMRU, Deschutes, and ESAR Post 64 and they were all on the trail by 0430.

Shortly above where Milk Creek crossed the PCT, there was a 30 foot wall of avalanche debris which had come off the mountain. The team skirted this on the north side and continued to ascend. By the time the team reached 6000 feet, they had visual contact with the two subjects, but were on a ridge one large gully to the north of the two subjects. By 0930 the team was still about an hour away using snowshoes in the soft conditions.

There were avalanches on all aspects of the ridges and snow stability was very poor. *Base* then informed the team that the National Guard's 1042nd Air Ambulance Company was on Standby to assist and the reply was to "spin them up." The helicopter arrived at the mountain about 1010 and after a couple passes located the rescue team, but could not see the two subjects (who had been advised by the rescue team via cellphone to drag themselves up to the top of their ridge).

Mission Report 04-02 (continued)

John (from Deschutes) suggested the rescue team form a line pointing toward the subjects. This was done and the helicopter was then able to spot the two.

First the flight medic was lowered to assess the two subjects. Then, Brent was hoisted into the helicopter with the flight medic on the jungle penetrator followed by Tom. The helicopter departed for Bend to deliver the climbers to St. Charles Medical Center.

The ground teams returned down the mountain as the snow conditions became more unstable. They were met at the bottom of the snow by Posse members who were able to take some of the equipment. After getting back to the trailhead, gear was sorted and repacked. Nate slept in his car at the trailhead before returning home while Jim and Matt drove to Idanha to refuel before sleeping for an hour or so. They stopped in Mill City for some food and were contacted by a member of Gates Fire Department who was curious how the mission ended.

Jim Dagata was team leader and reported that the mixed team of Deschutes and CMRU worked well together. Also, Laurie Adams, a member of Camp Sherman Hasty team, was at basecamp with the injured climber's wife; and assisted in getting navigation points plotted and put into GPS units.

Lesson Learned: Map datum for coordinates given to the field team for the subject's location was not specified. While these coordinates may have indeed come from the subject(s), they were plotted with a NAD 27 datum which led the rescue team onto the wrong ridge. When plotted using WGS-84, the subject's position more nearly agrees with their actual location. Most people don't know about map datums and most GPS receivers initially use WGS-84 – so, be cautious of coordinates derived by others. Ask about map datum and if your question is met with silence or a blank stare – chances are good that the GPS in question is (still) on WGS-84.

Participants: J. Linn, M. Crawford, J. Dagata, N. Vitagliano

2003 AWARDS

By Joy Linn

2003 may not have had many missions, 5 all together, but our unit members were still very active and committed to their volunteer service:

Seventeen unit members logged 374 mission hours, 1,259 training hours for a total of 1,633 hours. With an additional 747 hours of continuing education and community service.

They drove for 194 hours to attend events, and put over 12,000 miles on their vehicles.

The most training and mission hours by one person was 252.75 hours (Matt Crawford).

The most trainings and missions attended by one person (actually there was a tie – Matt Crawford and Joy Linn) was 25 out of 34.

On February 3, 2004, the 2003 *Annual Awards and Volunteer Recognition Event* was hosted by the Benton County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, Search and Rescue. At this event, Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit recognized the achievements of our unit members with awards. They were recognized for years of service, rounded to the most recent 5-year increment, and other achievements.

Years of ServiceOther Achievements

Bob Freund	25 years	Matt Crawford	Most Training Hours – 252.75 in 2003
Jeremy Adolf	20 years	Iain Morris	Fastest Rise to Rescue 2000-2003
Anne Greenwood	20 years	Jim Wach	Biggest Career Change in 2003
Jon Sears	15 years	Nate Vitagliano	Longest Move in 2003
Scott Linn	10 years	Aaron Lee	Greatest Variety of Jobs in 2003
Joy Linn	10 years		
Jim Dagata	5 years		
Don Lacer	5 years		
Lindsay Clunes	5 years		

PEER REVIEW – way to go, team!

The following email was sent to Jim Dagata and forwarded to the rest of the Unit:

I have been a SAR member working at IC for 5 years now, and have worked with all kinds of teams from all over the country (too many to count with the B and B fire) and I have to say you and your team were outstanding! It was a pleasure working with you. You were professional and yet not stuffy, very competent but not egotistical. What a breath of fresh air! Kara (the victim's wife) was equally impressed, and she sends her heartfelt thanks. She was especially impressed how quick-thinking you were to form a line to point the direction of Brent to the helicopter (crew).

I am putting together a map of the rescue and was wondering if you saved a "trek" of your route in your gps and if you could send it to me.

Thanks again, and I hope to work with your team in the future.

Laurie Adams
Camp Sherman Hasty Team
Jefferson County SAR

This is the sort of Peer Review for which we strive and train. It is nice to get a pat on the back every once in a while.

MISSION 04-01 – revisited

The Unit has received a nice letter of thanks from the Linn County Sheriff's Office for our participation in the recovery on Three-Fingered Jack. Also, we have received a contribution in the memory of one of those recovered. The donor had requested the \$500 check be shared with Camp Sherman Hasty Team and a \$250 check has been written to the Hasty Team.

PICTURE GALLERY:

Here are pictures looking across the large gully (avalanche chute) on the west face of Mt. Jefferson.



The subjects are located in the red circle (top right of the picture). Recent avalanche debris is visible not only in the chute, but in the top left of the picture. Three snow pits done near this location showed very poor snow stability (duh!).

All rescuers were using avalanche transceivers and were carrying shovels and probes (in addition to all the other rescue equipment).

Photo by Jim Dagata

From the same vantage point as the picture above, but showing the south half of the west side of the mountain.

There was still a lot of snow just hanging there waiting for a trigger to send it down the mountain. If you “blow up” the picture, you can see avalanche tracks all over the north side of the southwest ridge (right skyline in the picture). The subjects are on the ridge just left and above center of this picture awaiting the helicopter to make its final approach.



Photo by Jim Dagata