MAY 2000 Vol. XXV No. 5

Member of the Mountain Rescue Association

<u>Calendar</u>

June

May	2	7:00pm	UNIT MEETING Training: Patient Packaging by Jeremy Adolf. MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT NEWSLETTER	(V)
May	17	7:00pm	TRAINING SESSION Truck Orientation and Driving by Don Lacer	J
May	20/21	10:00am	ROCK PRACTICE organized by Jeff Gent	A W
May	22	7:00pm	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	7
June	3		Track Awareness Training available through Benton County	4.
June	6	7:00pm	<u>SUMMER SOCIAL</u> at Walnut Park. Potluck and another wild "Stove Cook-off." CMRU will provide soft drinks. Bring your own plates, utens etc.	sils,
June	17/18	TBA	<u>UNIT CLIMB</u> location to be determined	
June	21	7:00pm	TRAINING SESSION ELT Training	

MISSION 00-02: Missing Person, NW Corvallis

7:00pm

Member-hours: 8

A 24 year old female, living with her parents in the Crescent Valley area of northwest Corvallis, was despondent over the recent death of her boyfriend in a motor vehicle accident. On Easter morning, April 23, she took an overdose of extended pain relief medication (e.g. Tylenol PM). She wrote a note to her parents and left to walk in McDonald Forest.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The note was discovered about 1100 and 911 dispatch was called for assistance. A page was sent on Benton County **ALL SAR** at 1112 and CMRU sent an activation page at 1115. Four Unit members were able to respond and were directed to stage at the ECC. Around noon, searchers departed ECC for the search area. Upon arriving at the residence (also PLS), Lindsay was looking into the brush a short distance from the house when he spotted the subject. She was unresponsive and lying in the midst of a thick patch of Poison Oak.

Her parents had also contacted the Oregon Poison Control Center which advised with the amount of medication consumed and the elapsed time, it was quite likely the subject would be non-responsive. That piece of information had not been available to SAR personnel at their ECC briefing.

The patient was removed and taken by ambulance to Good Samaritan Hospital where she was placed in ICU. The mission was terminated at 1300. Particippants: Clunes, Freund, Grediagin, and Sears.

ANCHOR BOARD -- new teaching/training aid

At the April Unit Meeting, Jeff Gent inaugurated a new anchor board made by Don Lacer. The 4 ft. by 8 ft. board can either be wall mounted for lecture and storage or floor mounted for actual rigging practice. The board offers pegs with tie-off loops, which can take on many different configurations, as well as various, irregular surfaces for placement and evaluation of rock anchors. Thanks, Don, for all the work!

The Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit Newsletter is published monthly to keep friends and members of the Unit informed of our activities.

Editor: Bob Freund

NEW MEMBER -- welcome aboard

The Unit welcomes its newest member, Kathy Blackburn who has joined as a Trainee. She is a medical technician at Good Samaritan Hospital. Kathy enjoys outdoor activities and has been encouraged to pursue membership in the Unit by her husband, Dale, a past member of CMRU. Kathy's radio ID is 4 RESCUE 26.

OMRC REPORT --

April 15/16 was OMRC reaccreditation weekend and CMRU members assisted with setup and evaluation. On Saturday, the Hood River Crag Rats were put through their Rock, Snow, and Search modules; and Sunday, Deschutes County SAR completed its final accreditation evaluation (Winter Module) for MRA membership.

Thanks are extended to CMRU members Jeremy Adolf, Bob Freund, Jeff Gent, and Jon Sears who acted as evaluators or helped setup the Rock module on Saturday. Jon and Don Lacer acted as evaluators for the snow module on Sunday. There were also evaluators from Portland and Eugene teams as well as Deschutes County. EMR personnel did a remarkable job preparing a "glacier" and "avalanche" for the snow problem.

CMRU will be evaluated in all three modules next year (April 2001). In addition to covering the usual training topics, our training sessions from now until next April will stress the skills to be shown during the OMRC evaluation. Those CMRU members who attended this year's events observed just what we will be expected to do next year. It was a great training opportunity.

LOAD RELEASING HITCH -- added to evacuation system

At the April *Skills Workshop*, there was discussion about adding a Load Releasing Hitch (LRH) to our technical evacuation system. Most teams use a LRH between the belay and anchor as a way of releasing tandem belay Prusiks which may inadvertently grab. This characteristic is of limited value to CMRU with our present system configuration. However, another important characteristic of the LRH is its shock absorption feature -- and this is very advantageous to our system.

Drop tests of CMRU's primary belay (tandem Prusiks) showed it very capable of holding a standard "Rescue" load -- 200Kg dropped 1 meter on 3 meters of line (0.33 fall factor). But when the load was increased to 300 Kg (simulating a loaded litter and two attendants) the Prusiks failed when connected directly to an anchor. When a LRH, made of the same 8mm line as the Prusiks, was inserted between the belay and the anchor, the belay (tandem Prusiks) held the fall. As a point of interest, when the LRH was made from **11mm** line, *the Prusiks failed and no elongation of the LRH was noted* (i.e. little or no shock absorption)!

All Rescue, Support and Trainee members will be required to learn how to construct a LRH, describe where it is placed in our system, and demonstrate their ability to release and reset the LRH.

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