DECEMBER 2001 Vol. XXVI No. 12

Founding Member of the Mountain Rescue Association

Calendar

December WINTER SOCIAL -- Izzy's 7:00pm

Pizza, Corvallis

December 25 Merry Christmas

7:00pm **UNIT MEETING** January

CORVALLIS

MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

NEWSLETTER



DUES ARE DUE -- \$\$

At the October Executive Committee Meeting, the dues for fiscal year 2002 were set at \$15 plus \$5 if you are carrying a Unit rented pager. The fiscal year begins on November 1st so dues are now due and payable to the Treasurer at either a Unit Meeting or via the mail at Post Office Box 116, Corvallis, OR 97339-0116.

MISSION REPORT 01-07: Overdue Climber, Broken Top

Hours: 123, Miles: 1020

Danny Curran, 24, and his brother hiked into Green Lakes near Broken Top on the evening of Tuesday, November 6. At about 1400 on Wednesday, Danny said he was going to climb Broken Top. He did not return that night. His brother searched through Thursday before hiking out on Friday to report him missing. He was from Pennsylvania and was not familiar with the area.

Deschutes Co., PMR, and others searched through the weekend on the mountain and around the Green Lakes area. Helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft were used. On Monday, CMRU was contacted to assist on Tuesday. Five members traveled to Bend and spent the night at the Deschutes Co. SAR headquarters.

We were assigned to the south fork of Squaw Creek upstream from where the Green Lakes Trail crosses the creek. We departed Bend for the Pole Creek Trailhead on Tuesday morning. By 0930 we were on the trail south from Pole Creek Trailhead -- the temperature was in the 30's and it was beginning to rain lightly. We reached Squaw Creek around 1100 and the rain was becoming heavier. From 1130 to 1330, we searched both sides of the south fork of Squaw Creek with three people on the south side and two on the north to a point just east of Demaris Lake. In two hours, we covered just over a mile and a quarter with a combined visual and sound sweep of the area.

At about 1330, we were directed to suspend our search and begin heading out due to deteriorating weather. The precipitation had become heavy and wind was picking up -- even in the bottom of the canyon. Treefall became a concern as several wind gusts bent over even mature trees.

We arrived back at the trailhead about 1530 and all CMRU personnel were enroute to Sisters by 1630. A mission debriefing form and map were completed and faxed to Deschutes Co. at 1715 from Sisters Fire Dept. No sign of the missing party was found.

Radio communication was handled through a relay on Trout Creek Butte. GPS coverage was marginal during most of the afternoon due to cliffs beside the creek and the satellite constellation had most of the SV's below the ridgeline.

MISSION REPORT 01-08: Stand-by, Lost Child, Benton County

Hours: 1

Shortly after 1300 on Wednesday, November 14, a 3 year old boy was reported missing from his home in the area of Alpine in south Benton county. A page was sent on ALL SAR at about 1345 putting all Benton County SAR personnel on Stand-by. CMRU sent its Stand-by page at 1356. Just after 1400, the boy was located by a Benton County Deputy in the area. The mission was cancelled at 1411.

MARY'S PEAK ROAD CLOSED -- to the top

On December 1st, the Forest Service closed the gate just above Woods Creek Road (Connor's Camp) for the winter so you can no longer drive to the campground and upper parking lot.

WINTERIZE YOUR VEHICLE -- avoid the headaches

With the recent rain and foggy conditions, it is very easy for condensation to build up water in your vehicle's fuel system. Using a "gas drier" now will remove the water and avoid problems from water freezing in your vehicle's fuel system (i.e. carburetor, fuel lines, etc.) when parking in sub-freezing temperatures. Our truck needs it too!

WINTER SOCIAL -- revisited

The annual *Winter Social* was held at Izzy's Pizza in Corvallis and was well attended by most Unit members -- even the ones who had to travel from as far away as the Portland/Forest Grove area. Aaron, Troy, Lindsay, Nate, Joy/Scott, and Anne/Bob brought their spouse or significant-other to the event.

We were treated to photos from "Grandma Susan" of Eric and Jody's growing family, and slides from Lindsay Clunes of searches earlier this year in the Three Sisters and on Mt. Hood.

<u>LIGHT "STICKS"</u> -- available

The Unit bought fifty chemical light sticks that may be purchased by Unit members for \$1 each. They are available in yellow (12 hour) and white (8 hour). Contact Joy if you would like to buy some. They work great when affixed to the back of a helmet during night searches to help locate other searchers or for marking equipment caches at night.