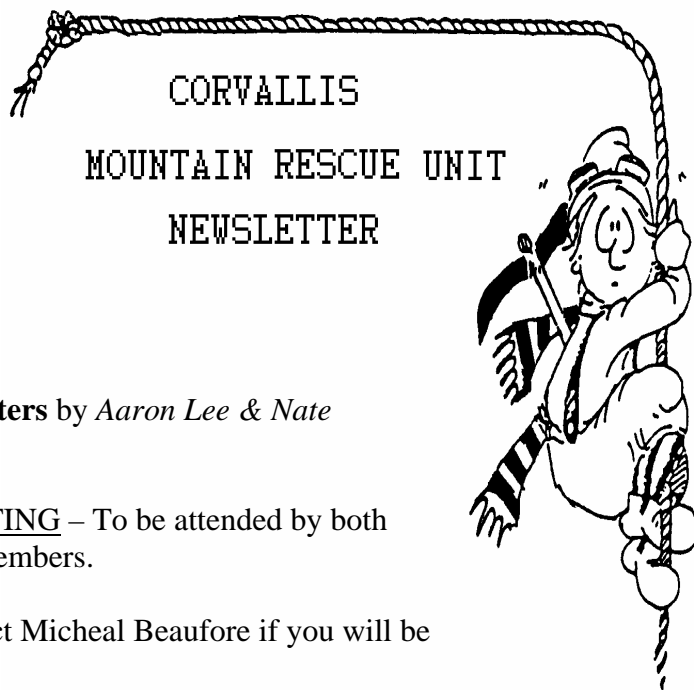


Calendar

- November 4 7:00pm UNIT MEETING – Elections.
Training: **Mountaineering**
Geography by *Iain Morris*.
- November 15 9:00am SKILLS WORKSHOP
- November 19 7:00pm TRAINING SESSION – **Snow Shelters** by *Aaron Lee & Nate Vitagliano*
- November 24 7:00pm EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – To be attended by both new and old executive committee members.
- December 2 7:00pm WINTER SOCIAL – Izzy's. Contact Micheal Beaufore if you will be attending.



CORVALLIS

MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

NEWSLETTER

MISSION REPORT 03-05: Missing person, Marys Peak Member-hours: 24, Miles: 98

At 0500 on November 13th, ALLSAR (including CMRU) was paged to conduct a road search in the vicinity of Marys Peak for a woman who was distraught, perhaps suicidal, and had called her husband. After searching by himself, the man contacted BCSO about 0400. In the course of the conversation, she led him to believe she was on one of the roads on or around Marys Peak. Four CMRU members responded with vehicles, along with other assets from Benton County SAR, for the search that continued until about noon. Repeated attempts to reach her via the cellular telephone number were unsuccessful.

Later in the afternoon, the woman called again, but from Humbolt county, California.

This mission brings up an important point about searches involving cellular telephone calls. Having a contact within the various cellular telephone companies is quite important to assist with finding which cellular site and which sector handled the call. Also, realtime tracking of a working cell phone as it roams around the countryside can help locate missing persons.

Participants: Beaufore, Clunes, Linn, Sears

ELECTION RESULTS –

At the November Unit Meeting, a slate of new officers was elected for the upcoming year. The following officers will assume their duties on January 1st.

President: **Joy Linn**
Vice-President: **Aaron Lee**
Secretary: **Bob Freund**
Treasurer: **Anne Greenwood**
Member-at-Large: **Lindsay Clunes**
OMRC Delegate: **Iain Morris**

Other Important office holders:
Benton County SAR Delegate: **Jim Dagata**
Pro Deals: **Matt Crawford**

EQUIPMENT UPDATE – cellular telephone

A handsfree kit has been installed in the truck for the Unit's new digital cellular telephone. We have discontinued the old analog "bag phone" and retained the telephone number of the analog phone which had been installed in the truck. After research into various digital formats, it was decided to go with a TDMA phone from Cellular One. Even though it might not be the "latest and greatest," the phone does have as good a coverage pattern as any currently available. Also, an amplifier has been installed to boost the output of the phone from 600 milliwatts to 3 watts.

* * * *It's snowing in the mountains, are you and your gear ready for a winter SAR mission?* * * *

2004 MEETING AND TRAINING SCHEDULE – call for ideas

If you have input for the upcoming year's training schedule, contact Aaron with your input before the end of the current year. The schedule of all Unit meetings, field trainings, and training sessions as well as Executive Committee meetings is usually finalized in December and distributed in late December or early January.

OMRC REACCREDITATION PROCESS – revised

For several years there has been grumbling about how evaluators reach a decision about passing or failing a team during the reaccreditation process. At its November meeting, OMRC adopted a new structure for scoring the reaccreditation scenario(s). The new structure has ten steps that follow the flow of a typical "mission." In order to successfully proceed from one step to the next, a team will need to demonstrate its skill and proficiency and not rely solely on "good luck." (e.g. Actually anchor a patient to the mountain rather than just relying on friction of the patient's clothing and gravity to keep the patient in place on a slope.)

There has also been grumbling for years about how unrealistic the glacier travel portion of the Winter Module is. Beginning in 2003, that portion is removed from the Winter Module and will be scheduled in June of each year as a seminar for all teams – presented on the White River Glacier on Mt. Hood (perhaps the only glacier in Oregon not inside a Wilderness area).

At this point, the proposals are being returned to member teams for comment and finalization early in 2004. If you have a strong feeling about the accreditation process or the newly proposed changes, contact Iain (our OMRC Delegate for 2004).

CELLULAR TELEPHONE – hands-free

The new cellular telephone (digital) has been purchased and a "hands-free" kit with amplifier has been installed to allow the driver and passenger to both use the telephone while enroute. To assist in the high noise environment of the truck's cab while underway, an additional handset is being added to the telephone cradle.

Since the phone tends to turn itself *on* when in the cradle, it will normally be turned off and put into the glove box when not in use. Future improvements will include interconnecting the computer with the telephone.

SKILLS WORKSHOP – revisited

November's field training was a *Skills Workshop* held at the truck garage. In the morning, there were three skills stations for the participants to attend and demonstrate their skills. Iain had a station on belaying – up, down, and load-releasing hitch operation; Aaron had a station on switch-over from raising to lowering under load; and Matt had a station that stressed the litter attendant's ability to move up and down (and all around) the litter.

In addition to reviewing our *standard* rigging and operating procedures, these stations introduced us to new equipment and ideas that the three station leaders acquired while attending rigging classes (*Ropes That Rescue*, and *Rigging for Rescue*) earlier in the summer. For many of us it was the first opportunity to use a hyper-bar brakebar rack or an Aztec Kit. It also generated discussion about how we do things (e.g. litter rigging) and how we might do it better, smoother, and lighter.

In the afternoon session, Aaron performed his Support evaluation. He passed and has been advanced to support. Congratulations, Aaron. Also, **well done** to Iain and Matt for their preparation. That prep work allowed us to have a timely, meaningful Skills Workshop.