## JULY 2000 Vol. XXV No. 7

Member of the Mountain Rescue Association

## **Calendar**

July	11	7:00pm	UNIT MEETING MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT
July	11	7.00pm	Training: Radio NEWSLETTER
			Communication by Jon Sears.
July	19	7:00pm	TRAINING SESSION Vertical Ascent/Descent by Scott Linn.
July	22	9:00am	FIELD TRAINING Land Navigation and Introduction to Pit Caves organized by Scott Linn.
July	24	7:00pm	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING Corvallis
August	1	7:00pm	<u>UNIT MEETING</u> Training: <b>Navigation and GPS</b> by <i>Bob Freund</i> .
August	16	7:00pm	TRAINING SESSION Unit Medical Equipment by Anne Greenwood.
August	19	8:00am	FIELD TRAINING Mt. Washington circumnavigation
August	28	7:00pm	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING Salem

MISSION REPORT 00-04: Injured Climbers, Mt. Washington

At approximately 0800 Thursday, June 29, two climbers were attempting a West Face route when the leader fell on the second pitch. Four pieces of protection pulled out as the leader fell nearly 200 feet and pulled his belayer off. The belayer fell nearly 100 feet. Both hit a snow patch at the base of the West Face and slid onto the rocks. The leader sustained an open tib/fib fracture as well as arm/wrist fractures. The belayer suffered a broken pelvis, distal femur fracture and tib/fib fractures as well as possible internal injuries evidenced by a rigid abdomen. Both climbers were wearing helmets.

The subjects were found on Saturday morning by climbers from the nearby Big Lake Youth Camp. Four members from EMR also happened on the scene shortly thereafter and contacted Jeremy via cellphone.

CMRU and other resources were activated prior to 0900 Saturday, July 1. CMRU arrived at the staging area at 1230. Deschutes MR was already headed into the mountain and a helicopter from the 939<sup>th</sup> was due to arrive. The helicopter stopped at Hoodoo for a crew briefing before inserting PJ's near the accident site with medical and evacuation equipment. The first patient was packaged and evacuated at 1509 to St. Charles hospital, in Bend. The second patient was packaged and evacuated at 1709 to St. Charles.

During this mission, staff from Big Lake Youth Camp brought medical equipment to the mountain. One of the staff members took a 150' sliding fall over snow and rocks suffering a fractured hand. After evaluation, he was able to walk out with assistance from the Deschutes MR team. This was another reminder just how easy it can be to become part of the *problem* rather than being part of the *solution*.

After the second patient was evacuated, CMRU was demobilized and released. Although CMRU personnel were not dispatched to the mountain this time, they were used in the base area to assist with planning and contingency preparation. If the helicopter had not been able to extricate the patients, CMRU personnel and equipment would have been used to perform the nearly 2000 foot lower it would have taken to get the patients off the mountain. Participants: J. Adolf, L. Clunes, B. Freund, J. Gent, D. Lacer, S. Leach, J. Sears and A Greenwood, ITC.

The *Newsletter* is also available at: http://cmru.peak.org

Editor: Bob Freund

Member-hours: 68

## JUNE UNIT CLIMB -- revisited

Although the Unit Climb had been planned for the Menagerie, most of that climbing area is closed until after August 1 due to nesting Peregrine falcons. So, we went to Mt. Washington instead. Snow covered the PCT at times and many winter blowdowns were across the trail(s). The North Ridge climber's trail was completely covered with snow except the bottom 300 yards. The weather was great -- cool and partly/mostly cloudy with a morning cloudcap over the summit that lifted as the day wore on. A pretty stiff West wind blew, but it was not too uncomfortable.

We ascended the North Ridge. The spine and West side of the ridge were exposed in most places if one wished to stay on rock; or the snow, which built out on the East side of the ridge, was quite wide and stable. There were a couple of *impressive* cornices on the ridge and evidence of avalanches in the not too distant past. Some of the avalanche debris were blocks the size of SUV's (or VW's for those so inclined).

Once we got to the notch, Kathy Blackburn's husband Dale rigged a fixed line on the first pitch. Another fixed line was rigged on the second pitch. All in all, twelve people made it to the summit. From there, it was, as they say, "... all downhill." The glissade down the West bowl was memorable. What a slide! Well worth the effort to get to the top of the scree slope (or "the price of admission").

In spite of intermittent cloud cover, the only time we felt any raindrops was after we returned to the cars. Even the mosquitoes weren't too bad (at that time). Except for a solo climber, we had the mountain to ourselves. Participants: K. Blackburn, L. Clunes, B. Freund, A. Grediagin, A. Greenwood, D. Lacer, S. Linn, J. Sears, K. Vertenan, and exmembers Dale Blackburn & Rod Harney. Also Ann's friend Phil and Ann's sister.

## EQUIPMENT UPDATE -- new stuff

The runners on the three equipment racks in the truck have been replaced with yellow webbing. The orange webbing has been put on the storage shelves in the garage. Also, new rechargeable batteries were purchased for the MT 500 radios. The batteries are in Smart Chargers on the desk in the garage. So, remember to grab them when picking up the keys for the truck.

Since the garage was broken into, we have discovered the only CMRU equipment that appears to have been taken was the equipment rack and two duffel bags for the In Town gear (formerly known as QRT gear). We are slowly replacing that gear.