# FEBRUARY 2001 Vol. XXVI No. 2

| Calendar |          |         | # CORVALLIS   |
|----------|----------|---------|---|
| February | 6        | 7:00pm  | UNIT MEETING Training: Field Organization during a mission. Roles to be filled and their responsibilities.  MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT NEWSLETTER |
| February | 21       | 7:00pm  | TRAINING SESSION System Rigging   |
| February | 24<br>25 | 9:00am  | SNOW PRACTICERoped Travel and Technical Evacuation in the snow environment.   |
| February | 26       | 7:00pm  | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING   |
| March    | 6        | 7:00pm  | <u>UNIT MEETING</u> Training: <b>Search Planning</b> . Table-top exercise.  |
| March    | 14       | 7:00pm  | TRAINING SESSION Anchor Systems   |
| March    | 17<br>18 | 10:00am | ROCK PRACTICE Steelhead Falls   |
| March    | 26       | 7:00pm  | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING   |

## MISSION REPORT -- 01-01: Missing Adult, Clackamas County

On Sunday, January 14, CMRU members assisted with the search for an adult who had been missing since January 2. His car had been located in a ditch about 16 miles up a road southeast of Estacada. It appeared he had stayed with the car for some period of time before leaving. The sector CMRU was assigned was steep and brushy which made for very difficult searching. Weather was a very cold rain throughout the day. Although they found some articles of clothing, none of the clues discovered by CMRU searchers were classified as belonging to the missing subject.

Member-hours: 34

Members-hours: 34; Miles: 302

Participants: Craig, Gent, J. Linn, Morris, Vertanen, Sears, Walters

#### MISSION REPORT -- 01-02: Missing Adult, Benton County

A 27 year old male who had recently been arrested was distraught and did not report to his job. Friends reported him missing on Monday 1/15/01. Also, a handgun was reported missing. His pickup was located in a parking lot near Bald Hill on Tuesday evening. Benton County SAR assets were put on Standby as a dog team and trackers worked over the area around his truck.

Ground SAR personnel (including CMRU) were activated for the search beginning at 0730 Wednesday, 17 Jan 01. We staged at the Benton County Fairgrounds and were assigned to cover trails on the north and west sides of Bald Hill. Kathy Blackburn accompanied a Search One dog team that was working on the southeast side of the hill. We received our briefing and were in the field by 0830. At 0930 one of two dog teams reported finding the subject -- deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Weather for this search started as fog with temperatures near or below freezing. CMRU searched in brushy terrain, but since it was winter, visibility in the brush was much greater than it would have been if leafed out.

Participants: Blackburn, Clunes, Dagata, Freund, J. Linn, Morris, O'Brien, Vertanen, Wach, Walters

#### CMRU PROFILED IN MRA MAGAZINE

CMRU was the rescue group profiled in the latest issue of the Mountain Rescue Association's *Rescue Forum* magazine. The article appears as a sidebar on page 17 of #36 Winter 2000 issue.

The *Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit Newsletter* is published monthly to keep friends and members informed of our activities. It is available on the 'net at: http://cmru/peak.org

Editor: Bob Freund

#### NEW MEMBERS

During January, the Unit accepted three new Trainee members. Aaron Lee (4 RESCUE 7) lives in Forest Grove and works for Yamhill County. Troy Eberly (4 RESCUE 6) lives in Monmouth and works for Yamhill County, too. Both Aaron and Troy have prior SAR experience with Yamhill County SAR and have been with Crater Lake (Nordic) ski patrol. Kirsten Arthur (4 RESCUE 10) is a graduate student at OSU in the field of molecular biology. She has been climbing for a year with the OSU Outdoor Program. Welcome Aboard to all three new members.

## JANUARY FIELD TRAINING -- revisited

If you missed this practice, you missed a great day in the mountains! We met at Ray Benson Snowpark where gear was distributed and we roped up -- a couple of times -- for glacier travel. (Repetition is good for the learning process.) We then travelled roped to our "play area" on the north side of Hayrick Butte.

Once arriving "on scene," we set to work on snow pits, avalanche transceiver search, and avalanche rescue problems for about two hours. The next section dealt with patient packaging (with emphasis in the snow environment). We wrapped-up (if you'll excuse the pun) the day's training by packaging Jon in the litter and dragging him from our play area out to the road where we had intended to take him back to the parking lot. But, along came some USFS personnel on snowmobiles. Anne flagged them down and they pulled the litter (and Jon) back to the truck. One thing Jon noticed: when you're sliding along on the ground, you sure can smell exhaust from the snowmobiles! One thing we noticed: the openings near the head of the litter need to be "plugged" when dragging through snow, otherwise the litter tends to fill (with snow) around the patient's head.

Upon everyone's return to Ray Benson Sno-Park, we collected equipment and held a short comment session on the day's activities. Then, half of the group departed for home, and the other half departed to construct snow shelters. Those who spent the night were treated to warming temperatures and rainfall by morning. Needless to say, they didn't stick around very long after it got light.

### FEBRUARY TRAINING

This month we begin putting all the pieces together. At the Unit meeting, we'll outline the roles to be filled during a typical SAR mission and specifically on a technical evacuation. The Wednesday night Training Session will work on rigging a technical evacuation station -- putting it all together where its dry (and light). The field training will again involve roped travel to get to our work area. The situation will require getting people and equipment to a simulated accident scene, packaging a patient, and evacuating one or more patients. To accomplish this we will need to construct anchor systems with snow anchors, technical evac rigging, and litter handling. The problem will involve a multi-station lowering.