JULY 1999 Vol. XXIV No. 7

Member of the Mountain Rescue Association

Calendar

July 6 7:00pm <u>UNIT MEETING</u> -- Training: **Radio Communications** by

MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT NEWSLETTER

CORVALLIS

Susan Leach.

July 21 7:00pm TRAINING SESSION -- Cave Rescue Operations

July 24 TBA FIELD TRAINING -- Cave Practice

July 26 7:00pm EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 3 7:00pm <u>UNIT MEETING</u>

August 18 7:00pm TRAINING SESSION -- Vertical practice and CFD drill tower

August 21 <u>UNIT CLIMB</u> -- rock related

August 30 7:00pm EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

IN MEMORIAM -- Mardi Keltner

At the end of June, Mardi succumbed to her short, intense battle with cancer. In her eleven years with us, Mardi was many things to the Unit. She was the intellectual soul of CMRU; an active recruiter; a "keel" who helped keep the Unit upright and tracking properly in spite of the cross-winds encountered; and most importantly, an active member who answered the call when her pager (or in those years before pagers -- the telephone) alerted us to a mission in progress. As we reflect upon her accomplishments and many contributions to CMRU, the legacy which will may be the most enduring will be the first-class webpage she created for CMRU.

Its been said that it is a 5.10 mantle into Heaven, but we all know Mardi made the move just fine. She was being belayed by other Corvallis Unit members who went before: Jack (Henry), Willi (Unsoeld), and John (Blaisdell). We'll each miss Mardi, in our own ways. To many of us, **4 Rescue 11** will forever be Mardi Keltner.

MISSION REPORT 99-02: Overdue, Missing Child

Member-hours: 1

At 1138 on Tuesday, June 15, CMRU was activated to assist Corvallis PD with a possible search in Willamette Park for an overdue/missing teenage boy. He had last been seen at 1600 the previous day and it was thought he might have been in the vicinity of Willamette Park.

Ten minutes later, the mission was cancelled when it was determined he was likely a runaway. Thanks to the nine members who responded to the page.

CMRU ASSISTS LINN COUNTY SAR ACADEMY

Jon Sears, Don Lacer, and Bob Freund helped with instruction at Linn County's Academy for new SAR recruits. Topics covered included Map & Compass activities at Linn County Posse's training area on Thomas Creek and rope work (vertical rappels and some fixed-line maneuvering) at Lebanon Fire Department's drill tower.

BENTON COUNTY SAR VEHICLE GARAGE -- under construction

Jim Swinyard received approval to have a new garage built in the county shop compound to house county vehicles used by SAR personnel -- to include CMRU's truck. Joy Linn assisted in the first stages of site prep -- removal of the fencing around the impound lot (starting with the razor wire). Ground is to be broken shortly after the first of July with completion later in the summer or fall.

June Field Training -- mock mission, revisited

June's field training was to have been a mock mission for a stranded climber on the west side of Three-Fingered Jack (sound like a familiar place?). A response to the pageout on Friday night indicated about six participants for the mission. Four showed at the staging area Saturday morning, while two others were having an adventure of another kind -- with the truck. Jon and Ann were in the truck when it started its back-fire routine (again). After a call to the In Town Coordinator, followed by pages and cellular calls, the truck was turned around and headed toward the barn. But, along the way, it continued to back-fire and die. Finally, in one mammoth back-fire, it blew the muffler apart. Jon and Ann limped it home with exhaust pouring into the driving compartment and making a terrible racket.

Meanwhile, the rest of us looked at each other and took stock of what equipment we had on do a mission. What could we do on such a pretty day in the mountains? We decided to hike into the base of the mountain using a GPS route and gain some navigation experience. From the time we left the parking lot, we were on snow -- pretty firm snow -- until we completed the circuit and returned to the cars 9.5 miles and 7 hours later. We went from Santiam Sno Park to the Rockpile, to the South Ridge, around the Southwest spur and into the bottom of the Scree slope. We were walking on snow that was anywhere from two to thirty feet deep. (Remember, it was half past June!) At the base of the scree field, there were no "small" trees visible -- just "big" ones. For the route out, we headed to a waypoint by Santiam Lake, then toward Lower Berley Lake, back toward the Rockpile and finally back to the cars. Don and Keith kept track of things GPS-wise, and Preston kept us moving in the right direction. Participants: B. Freund, D. Lacer, P. VanMeter, K. Vertenan.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED IN "SOFT" FORM -- Subscribe

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