

Rescue Teams Don't Just Happen

There's a concept out there called "risk homeostasis: The theory is that the more reliable the probability of rescue appears to be, the more people take risks potentially mitigated by the probability of rescue in the event of a problem. The conclusion is that aggressive rescue policies can actually increase the number of deaths because the policies encourage people to engage in risky behavior in numbers that more than compensate for the increased effectiveness of the rescue policies. *(Does that sound as ridiculous to you as it does to me? Editor)*

I think outdoor accidents don't simply happen. You can always tie it to someone's mistake, while it could be argued that almost anything but a lightning strike could be avoided with good judgement--and even a knowledge of lightning could limit that. Experienced outdoors people have the knowledge to recognize what's going on and to react accordingly. Nature is not kind to the uninitiated lost in the mountains: carelessness, disregard for safety, inadequate training and inexperience are more to blame than taking more risk because you have an outstanding rescue team.

Outstanding rescue teams don't just happen; there is a discipline of rescue; it is based upon principles and standards that allow rescuers to become knowledgeable and skilled at their work. Most rescue teams, professional or volunteer, are the results of long hours of training. Training produces obedience, self-control, self-confidence and trust in your ability and those of others

As rescuers you must attend the training offered by your unit to maintain your experience. Safety must always be the utmost thing on your mind. No rescue can be accomplished without following

established safety measures. And finally carelessness on a rescue mission could turn you from a rescuer to a victim in seconds. All rescue work should be focused on the understanding that no matter how simple or complex the rescue may become, each rescue situation is unique, but the principles that are learned in training are fundamental laws that serve the rescuer no matter what the situation.

While we all know why we involve ourselves in this unique avocation, and how such activities are to be carried out, it nevertheless does not hurt to spell out a simple Search and Rescue code of Ethics as a gentle reminder:

* **Safety is Above All.**

- * The Victim is the reason for our existence.
- * Excellence in SAR Skills is the standard.
- * All educational activities will be performed in a professional manner.
- * We will conduct ourselves with honesty and integrity

Always make safety and training the first things on your mind the next time you receive a callout for a rescue.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 30, 2008

These minutes as published are unofficial and subject to approval at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Convened 1910 hrs.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Wire, Tyler Severy, Christine Davies, Berndt Bittlingmeier, Jeff Sharp, Gus Bush, Dan Deprez, Chris Berryman, Chad Johnson

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lynn Severy Tyler passed around the December 2007

treasurers report. Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report as presented.

KIT REPORT: Tracy Berryman

Tracy presented the Kit Reports for the 4th quarter and the year-end report. Rick informed the board that Pam Greminger has volunteered to take over the online kit sales.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Gus Bush

No operations since last meeting.

TRAINING REPORT: Berndt Bittlingmeier

The next training, Rigging 1, is scheduled for 1/20 and 1/23, taught by Chris Berryman and Ken Davies. The navigation training was not heavily attended, but a very good training, led by Greg Lang. Last weekend Berndt taught OTEP training for the unit EMT's. June training will be a state-wide WMRA training on June 7 and 8, hosted by Bellingham MRA. This will be the Unit training.

EQUIPMENT REPORT: Chad Johnson

The first estimate on the repair for the truck door was received. Chad will look for other estimates.

Chad will be taking the truck in for regular servicing this week, and he will buy chains for the smaller trailer.

Tyler ordered the ambulance trailer for the snowmobile.

COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Chapman

Bob has gone to Iraq for the near future. Rick is taking volunteers for communications chair. Tod will continue to maintain the website.

SAFETY & EDUCATION: Chris

Berryman

Chris will be heading up the accident

response training at the Mountaineers basic climbing course at Irish Cabin on April 12 and 13. The Davies taught boy scouts how to pack their backpacks. Seattle Mountain Rescue has prepared a press release regarding avalanches.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Dan Deprez

Dan proposed that Steve Showalter be accepted as Field Support. Motion was made, seconded and passed.

MRA: Jeff Sharp

Jeff attended the winter MRA business meeting in Salt Lake a few weeks ago. He will present a report at the next general meeting.

Jeff has been asked by Charlie Shimanski to review/rewrite the Helicopter curriculum, and to prepare an advanced course manual.

SAR COUNCIL: Christine Davies

No Report.

AIR OPS: Tim Greminger

Jeff reported on the Bariovox beacon purchased by Pierce County and mounted on the King County helicopter. The funding was a donation by a family member from the Crystal Mountain search.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tyler contacted Cabela's regarding carrying the kit, but they said it would be several months before they could get back with us.

Rick is looking for volunteers to chair and/or work on a planning committee for the TMRU 50th Anniversary Banquet. The proposed date is the 21st of November.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jeff reported on the status of the RECCO receiver we are supposed to be getting from

the manufacturer. It is still in the future somewhere.

Tyler recommended getting rid of the TMRU phone, since it costs over \$700 a year, and is rarely used. After discussion, it was determined that the need for the phone doesn't justify the cost.

Meeting Adjourned at 2010.

Respectfully yours,
Christine Davies, Secretary

KIT PARTY

The following members attended the Kit Party on Jan 2, 2008:

Rick Wire
Gus Bush
Cindy Taylor
Randy Brake
Ken, Christine, Ian, Emily Davies
Greg Lang
Ken Capron
Chris and Tracy Berryman

They made 188 kits.