

**Body recovery on the Green River
DEM# 08-1408**

Rick Wire, the TMRU Chairman, was contacted by the Department of Emergency Management to help provide mountain rescue volunteers to help in the recovery of a kayaker who drowned on the Green River on May 17. The individual had decided to run the Green River on the first hot day of the spring. A total of eight members responded: Rick Wire (OL), Mark Cooksley, Roger and Maria Ternes, Greg Lang, Alan Givotovsky, Russ Gintz, and Dan Deprez. They all met at Flaming Geyser State Park at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday 30 May.

The body of the lost kayaker was lodged in a crevice in a gully with a 300ft rock wall on one side and a 50 degree overgrown slope on the other. Besides TMRU members from Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR) were on scene. Plan A was to set up a high-line system to lower a rescuer to the body, Plan B was to lower a ladder down to get over to the rocks where the body was lodged. It was decided to go with plan A, SMR would set up the high-line and TMRU set up an adjustable offset and would manage getting people up and down the 50 degree slope. Everything went well the kayak was cut in half and the body was recovered. Greg and Rick put it in a body bag and it was hauled to the top of the slope where members of Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR) carried it to search base. Everyone was finished around 4:30 P.M., But TMRU's weekend wasn't over.

**3 Hikers Injured on Mount Ellinor
DEM # 08-1589**

Around 7:30 P.M. the Unit was contacted by the Olympic Mountain Rescue (OMR) to help in the rescue of an injured climber

on Mt. Elinor. Seven team members responded: Fran Sharp (OL), Alan Givotovsky, Roger and Maria Ternes, Mark Cooksley, Randy Brake, Fletcher Taylor.

A 911 call was received about 2:30 p.m. on Saturday to report there were three injured hikers on a higher elevation level of Mount Elinor in the Olympic National Forest. The hikers were on a section of the trail known as "The Chute": a 54 y.o. female climber in the Chute with a broken leg and an additional two climbers (male and female) who had been struck by a large piece of ice or hard snow.

The first injured woman broke her tibia while glissading. She is an experienced hiker/scrambler (been to Nepal, climbed Elinor 15+ times). It happened at 2:30 in the afternoon, and climbers already on the mountain were able to get her lowered to the bottom of the chute and make a fire, while waiting for help she was carried out by volunteer firefighters.

An OMR team headed up toward the top of the Chute to the other two injured climbers with the hope that a helo would be available. With the possibility that it would not, Tacoma Mtn Rescue arrived before 2300 and proceeded to the upper parking lot/trail head and held for further assistance. Pierce County also provided a fixed wing aircraft (with Jeff Sharp, TMR) to fly over the area and spot the accident site. After the advanced team arrived at the upper accident site, OMR did the medical assessment and a helo was requested. A TMR person remained at Base and worked with the Deputy. The Navy at Whidby Island NAS responded and felt that a night time pickup would be preferred as the morning weather did not look promising. The female subject was packaged and rigged down and over about 300' to a better LZ on the E side of the

Chute, about 4900'. By this time the male subject was feeling less shaky and was able to walk down to the LZ. The Navy arrived about 0200 Sunday and picked up both subjects and took them to Harborview in Seattle. All TMRU members returned to the Cache by 8:00 A.M. Sunday morning.

Injured Climber on Mt. Elinor DEM # 08-1690

The Unit was contacted by the Department of Emergency Management to assist OMR in the carryout of another injured climber in the "Chute" on Mt Elinor. This was the second callout to the same accident site in two weeks. Six members responded: Tyler Severy (OL), Chris Berryman, Ken Capron, Roger and Maria Ternes and Ken Davies.

A 41 y.o. hiker plus her three friends from Centralia and Chehalis were climbing Mt. Elinor when she suffered an accidental tumble down the chute. They group hadn't made it all the way to the summit because they became too tired so they decided to descend. They wanted to slide in the chute, but saw it was filled with hazards such as big rocks so they were hiking beside it. The subject fell face first into the chute and tried to arrest with her ice axe, but she had picked up enough speed so that when the axe caught she separated her shoulder. She also suffered a broken left leg in the fall. OMR was already on scene with a team of 5. Tyler and Ken assisted 3 of the patient's friends down the chute and built the lower anchors for the lowering operation. Once the lower down the chute was complete, the rest of our team joined us for the all night carry out down the trail. A mix of assisted lowers, carries, caterpillars and finally the litter wheel allowed us to get the patient out by about 2:30 A.M. A great job was done by all and every member was needed. This was a long carryout that took a lot of energy early in the morning hours.

Everyone returned to the Cache by 8:00 A. M.

Search for Three Lost Boaters on the Nisqually River DEM # 08-1745

The Unit was contacted by Pierce County Department of Emergency Management at 10 P.M. Thursday night to help in the search for two lost boaters. A 16-foot flat-bottom boat with an outboard motor overturned on the Nisqually River in Thurston County. 5 members responded: Jeff and Fran Sharp (OL). Josh Hall. Tyler Severy and Rick Wire. They met at the Cache at 6:00 A.M. the next day.

According to police, shortly after 6 p.m. Thursday, the boat carrying five people - two men, a woman and two boys, ages 5 and 9 - overturned. It is believed no one was wearing life jackets. The woman and one of the men made it to shore safely, but the other man and the two boys were swept away. Police said the water was cold and treacherous, with obstructions and debris in the water. With members of SMR and OMR high-lines were set up across the river to anchor rubber boats carrying divers to search for the three lost subjects. The search lasted for two days and was called off on Saturday night. The body of the 5-year-old boy has been recovered but the other two are still missing.

Body Recovery of Three Lost Snowboarders DEM # 08-1832

The Unit was contacted by the Pierce County DEM to Provide 5 members to recover the bodies of 3 lost Snow boarders. They were to meet at the Crystal Mountain Ski Resort at 0700 and be flown to the site by the King County Helicopter Guardian 2. Friends of the three had taken advantage of melting snow and searched Saturday in the area where they disappeared. They found the bodies of the three snowboarders who

had been missing since early December in the Cascades near Crystal Mountain, a skiing area northeast of Mount Rainier in Washington State's Cascade Range.

Autopsies have not been performed, but searchers theorize the three were killed by an avalanche. Heavy, wet snow caused dozens of avalanches in the area last year.

The plan was for a Helo qualified team to be inserted to an LZ below the location of the bodies. Due to weather it was several hours until King County could get their aircraft up to Crystal. There were not enough seats on board to make the flight for all five of the team members so it ended up that Sheriff Bill Cassio and Tyler would see if the Helo could be landed in the LZ they had planned. High winds forced them into a hoist operation in which Bill, Pete from KCSD and Tyler were hoisted in. They dug out and packaged the bodies and gear then did several hoist operations with two separate flights to get the bodies and gear back to the parking lot at the ski area. The entire operation took about two hours; they left the parking lot around 2:30 and were back by 4:30. A great job to all involved. Autopsies have not been performed, but searchers theorize the three were killed by an avalanche. Heavy, wet snow caused dozens of avalanches in the area last year

**TACOMA MOUNTAIN RESCUE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 25, 2008**

These minutes as published are unofficial and subject to approval at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Convened 7:13.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Wire, Tyler Severy, Christine Davies, Greg Lang, Gus Bush, Dan Deprez, Tim Greminger, Chris Berryman

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Fran Sharp

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lynn Severy
Tyler passed out the treasurer's report. Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report.

KIT REPORT: Tracy Berryman
No kit report this month.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Gus Bush
Gus reported that there were five missions during the last month. See Rucksack for full reports. OLs from different missions gave reports.

Assisted King County in recovery of kayaker in Green River. Rick Wire, OL.

Mt. Elinor: rescue of two injured hikers. Fran Sharp, OL.

Mt. Elinor: rescue of injured hiker. Tyler Severy, OL.

Nisqually River search for two drowning victims. Fran Sharp, OL. Thurston County Sheriff sent a thank-you letter for our assistance.

Recovery of three snowboarders from search last December near Crystal Mountain. Tyler Severy, OL.

TRAINING REPORT: Berndt Bittlingmeier
Tyler reported that the low-angle training with Grant County got cancelled due to the recovery mission at Crystal Mountain. There is currently no training scheduled for July. Berndt will work on one.

Dan Hudson will be conducting a swiftwater training for SAR volunteers. GSSD will be participating. Currently the dates are July 15 and 16. We can work to change the dates to make it on the weekend.

EQUIPMENT REPORT:

Rick reported that Randy Brake will be our new equipment chair.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Greg reported that the truck radio is still not working properly.

Jeff reminded the board that by 2011 we will need to update our radio license to move to narrow band.

SAFETY & EDUCATION: Chris Berryman

Jeff taught a B-3 class for four people from Bellingham Mountain Rescue. They got a mission and most of the members could not attend the class.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Dan Deprez

Dan had an e-mail from a person who wants to be a member in an administrative function.

MRA: Jeff Sharp

Fran reported that she is now Immediate Past President of the National MRA.

Jeff will give a full report of the MRA Spring Conference at the next general meeting. He spoke briefly about the different activities. Members from TMRU were involved in winning teams in four different competitions.

Fran reported that during a hike/rock scramble, she assisted an elderly British woman who fell and was injured.

SAR COUNCIL: Christine Davies

The last meeting was cancelled due to a mission in University Place.

AIR OPS: Tim Greminger

Tim received an e-mail from Whidbey. They can send someone to give a ground brief, and send a helicopter to show us what they have. They can basically only do demo, not actual training.

The board discussed the issue of flying with King County when they don't put seats in the helicopter. The procedure will be that we will only fly with seats in place. The OLS will be informed to stick to their guns when the situation arises.

OLD BUSINESS:

Banquet: Fran is working on the banquet.

The Mountaineers clubhouse is locked in.

Fran would like to have a slide show from early days to the present. Anyone who has old slides can pre-sort them and give them to Rick, who will start scanning them.

Chris Berryman talked about options regarding the Cache phone.

Chris reported that he found a graphic designer who is willing to redo the insert for the storm shelters. Motion was made, seconded and passed to pay for her services.

Chris will bring in a water dispenser that dispenses hot and cold water.

NEW BUSINESS:

The picnic is coming up. The location is unsure.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chris reminded the members that there is a ton of snow in the mountains and now that it is getting hot there is a tremendous potential for avalanches.

Meeting Adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

Christine Davies, Secretary

KIT PARTY

The following members attend the Kit Party on 3 June 08.

Chris & Tracy Berryman

Bill Weber

Gus Bush

and a friend of Chris named Tony but I can't remember his last name. Editor

They packed four cases of shelters