

**EVIDENCE SEARCH IN ORTING
DEM 08ES0056**

The Unit was contacted at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning the 12th of October to help the Pierce County Sheriffs Department search for a hand gun from a shooting the night before. A group of three individuals had tried to break into a watchman's shack on a Dairy farm on 188th Street in Orting by the Old Soldiers home. Shots were fired and the suspects fled the scene. One of them tossed the handgun that had been used in the break in into the bushes on the side of the road. 5 Members responded: Chris Berryman, Dan Deprez, Tim Greminger and Roger and Maria Ternes. After about an hour and half of searching and cutting 30 x 40 swath thru blackberry bushes, Dan Deprez found the handgun in the grass and it was taken into Sheriff custody.

**LOST HIKER ON MT. ADAMS
DEM # 08-3317**

The Unit was contacted to provide members to help search for 27-year-old Derek Mamoyac of Philomath OR. He had started up Mt Adams on Sunday the 12th of October for a one-day climb of the mountain. Family members reported him missing when he failed to show up for work as scheduled Monday morning, and his car was found at the Cold Springs trailhead. Because of that, it is suspected that he took the South Climb, a popular route up the mountain, This was the hiker's first time on the mountain, although he has other climbing experience. He told family members he was leaving Saturday night and planned to head back down at 3 a.m. Sunday. Mamoyac was last seen by another climber on the south side of Mount Adams at the 9,400-foot level. The

climber also said he was ascending into a storm with minimal gear. Authorities believed he had climbed a few mountains but did not have extensive alpine experience. They also believed he had never before climbed Mount Adams. Mamoyac was wearing a fleece, a cap and either wind pants or jeans -- clothing that ill prepares him for an extended stay on the mountain's upper elevations, where nighttime temperatures have dipped into the 20s this week.

Four team members responded on Wednesday morning the 15th: Chris Berryman, Berndt Bittlingmaier, Josh Hall and Steve Showalter. They met at the Cache at 4:30 a.m. and picked up Steve at park and ride en route. After a long drive to the search base at the Cold Springs campground they were assigned to search the Birdcreek Meadows/Sunrise Camp area which is the approach to the Mazama Glacier. This assignment caused them to retrace their steps back to the town of Trout Lake and then up to Birdcreek Meadows. They finally got on the trail by 10:00 a.m and searched the area until 5:00 p.m. They then returned to the Cache. A second callout was made but no members responded.

A dog from a search-and-rescue team located Derek alive on the southwest side of the mountain, just below the Avalanche Glacier at around 6,000-foot level, at about 2 p.m. Friday the 17th. He had fallen on Sunday just short of the summit and suffered a broken ankle and other lower leg injuries as well as severe frostbite on his rear end and toes. He had spent nearly four days trying to drag himself off the mountain, drinking from creeks and eating centipedes and other bugs after running out of food. Doctors said his injuries will probably keep him off his feet for around three months.

FALLEN HIKER ON ROOSEVELT PEAK DEM# 08-3460

The Unit was contacted on Sunday 26 Oct. to help in the carryout of a 36-year-old man who had fallen and suffered head injuries about 2 p.m. A husband/wife were climbing/hiking Mt Roosevelt. He tumbled coming down and injured his head, neck and foot. *(The subject had a broken C-2, compound fracture in the foot, a severe puncture wound near his knee which required surgery, and multiple abrasions. Editor)*. Six team members responded: Jeff and Fran Sharp, Randy Brake, Russ Gintz, Josh Hall, Steve Showalter. They left the Cache around 1800.

Two members of Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR) went in light and it took them 3.5 hours to reach the subject. More SMR and ESAR went in but there was ice and snow so ESAR could not go all the way. Jeff, Josh and Fran had to work Monday morning. Josh helped bring some gear in about 1.5 miles then had to head home. Jeff and Fran helped at SAR Base. Randy, Russ and Steve carried a lot of gear in and met up with the other SMR teams. Due to high winds it was initially thought the use of helicopters would not be an option and the man would have to be carried out. Early Monday morning a MH-65c Dolphin helicopter from the Coast Guard station at Port Angeles was able to lift the subject out to Boeing Field.

(The following is from an email written by Russ Gintz, Editor) Once again a determined helicopter crew saved the day. With his injuries it would have been a very long and rough ride down the ridge and out to the trail head. The ridge leading up to the subject was ~600 feet of

steep scree and rock, sloping away on either side, with thickets of trees and brush along the crest. Some snow but not nearly as much as expected. We heard the Navy had called their helicopter off because of high winds and we were pressing on toward the subject when we got word that the Coast Guard was on the way with a rescue swimmer. It showed up and spent about 30 minutes scanning the area with spot lights, testing power, and burning off fuel before it moved in and dropped the swimmer off. Then he came back about 15 minutes later and picked up the subject. At that point we were probably a couple hundred feet below watching it unfold. They came back a while later and picked up the rescue swimmer. When the excitement died down we talked it over with SMR and decided to hunker down until the sun came up since the terrain was difficult to navigate in the dark and there was no more urgency (~5:30 am?). At ~7:30 we moved the rest of the way up and met up with the SMR guys and the reporting party (his girl friend?) and helped pack their gear down. She walked out with us and the rest of the teams. I think we got back to base at ~2:00 pm. They finally returned to the Cache around 4:00 p.m.

TMRU HISTORY

The annual banquet on the 14th will mark the 50th anniversary of the unit. What follows was written by Ken Capron it describes the early history of the unit and the effort that was put into it by some dedicated individuals. Editor.

Initially named the **Tacoma Unit of the Mountain Rescue Council** the Tacoma Mountain Rescue Unit was formed by a group of local climbers that had already

been rescuing as individuals. These individuals all recognized that other established rescue units such as the Seattle MRC, etc. were often busy or unavailable to assist on a more local incident so the problem was discussed, and the Unit was formed in November 1958. Many of these climbers were members of the Tacoma Mountaineers who were ready, interested, and willing to help. One climber named Owen Wright spearheaded the drive to organize these interested individuals, which included the following listed charter members:

ACTIVE MEMBERS: Cliff Cooley, Bruce Galloway, James Holt, Charles Kilmer, Robert Koster, George Munday, Barry Palmer, Owen D. Wright, Glen Robertson, Lester Robinson, John Simac, Leroy Tegner, Scott Wesley, Mary Francis Wright, Mary Joan Wright

INACTIVE MEMBERS: George F. Coleman, Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Cooper, Tyrone Harkness, Larry Heggerness, Linnea McGehee, Dr. Thomas McGehee, and many others.

Most incidents that required a rescue response came from the local authorities, however others seemed to come from word of mouth through the Mountaineers and then passed on to those that were willing to help. Early call outs included the use of phone trees to notify Unit members and initiate the needed response to the situation. The Unit had a very strong base and in the early years had up to 40 members many of whom stayed involved for years. The average age of the rescuers were in their 30's, however, much younger climbers were also allowed in the group as long as they had a respected member recommending their

admittance. All members had to have Board approval to enter the Unit, paid dues, owned their own equipment, used their own vehicles (no Unit truck back then), and basically supported financially their involvement. Members were required to be physically, technically, and mentally prepared for any type of mission. These missions could and did include anything from high angle, high altitude, evidence, urban searches, or missing persons. Those on the active roster were expected to attend training which were conducted monthly, and assist in as many rescues as possible. Monthly training were usually set up as mock missions and if possible were also used as a debrief session to a prior mission. They would discuss and practice what went right and practice and talk about what they could have done better. It appears that the Unit was most often able to field as many rescuers as the situation required, and 10 to 12 members seemed to be the norm. The **Tacoma Unit** was also the first in the region to have female climbers as part of a field rescue team including as many as 5 in the earlier years. The team relied heavily on an "in town coordinator" while out on missions (much as we still do today), to provide additional resources and manpower to any rescue situation. The coordinator would also keep the families of the rescuers updated as to the events of the mission, and the potential return time of the Unit members. Family members of the rescuers seemed to be very involved back in the early years, and were a great support staff to the team and its successes.

The Unit used the Mountaineers clubhouse as their meeting facility, until years later (1975) when they were able to secure their own building. Safety and

education was always a major part of the Unit's existence as well as being involved in rescues, and many members conducted classes, ran seminars, provided medical training, and helped educate the public whenever the opportunity arose. Many members of the Unit were Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's), and the ability to obtain that status by belonging to the Unit was also a draw for recruiting new members. Some rescuers; including John Simac and Lee Tegner, were made Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Coroners complete with badges, in order to streamline missions that included a deceased subject. The organization would often be transported by military aircraft and were assisted by a Pararescue group when required. It would also communicate, assist and request assistance by other rescue units as the need arose. This led to the Unit being a charter member of the National Mountain Rescue Association formed at Mt. Hood in 1959. On an average the Unit would be involved in 10 to 14 major rescue situations in any given year. One such mission included traveling to Alaska and assisting in a big rescue on Mt. McKinley in May of 1960. Other major accomplishments included helping start the Washington State Emergency Management program in 1964 as well as an EMT program in 1973. Another big event included training that involved solving a rigging problem as the State of Washington Governor Al Rosellini looked on. This training was designed and conducted in order to demonstrate to him the potential and value of a Mountain Rescue team. Many members of this team were also very involved and instrumental in the creation and construction of the Camp Schurman climbers hut on Mt. Rainier which was

started in 1959. In January of 1974 they were also involved in the construction of Spire Rock in Spanaway Park.

The group of men and women that were involved throughout the conception and early years of this Unit were very committed and created a very strong and sound organization. It was and still is a very critical piece in assisting the State in conducting search and rescue operations that they are required to perform. The fact that the **Tacoma Mountain Rescue Unit** is still here fifty years later is definite proof of how all the hard work and effort of those before us paid off and they should and do feel proud of their accomplishments. The rest of us who have followed in their boot tracks are equally as proud to be members of this organization, and will continue to conduct ourselves in a positive and professional manner.

**TACOMA MOUNTAIN RESCUE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 29, 2008**

These minutes as published are unofficial and subject to approval at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
Convened 7:00pm.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Wire, Tyler Severy, Christine Davies, Berndt Bittlingmeier, Jeff Sharp, Gus Bush, Dan Deprez, Chris Berryman, Randy Brake, Tim Greminger, Greg Lang,

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy Berryman, Ken Davies, Fran Sharp, Steve Showalter, Ken Capron

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lynn Severy Tyler passed around the treasurer's

report.

KIT REPORT: Tracy Berryman
Tracy passed around the kit report.

The sales in the last quarter were way down, which reduced our income significantly.

The storm shelter label is almost finished and ready to go to the printer. REI hasn't ordered anything new since June. There was considerable discussion regarding the future of kit sales and how to replace the income that once came in with kits.

Berndt volunteered to begin marketing kits to other companies such as Sportco, GSI at Mount Rainier, and other stores.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Gus Bush
There have been three operations since the last board meeting.

There was an evidence search on October 12 for a gun that was tossed out near Orting. Dan found the gun right away and shortened the mission. Later on October 12 we were requested for an injured hiker on Granite Mountain, but no OL was available.

On October 14 there was a mission to find a missing solo climber on Mount Adams. Chris Berryman, Berndt Bittlingmeier, Josh Hall and Steve Showalter responded to this.

Chris Berryman gave a report on the missing hiker at Mt. Adams. He was missing from Monday until Friday,

On October 26, members responded to a call-out on Mt. Roosevelt for a hiker who took a serious fall. Randy Brake, Steve Showalter, Josh Hall, Fran and Jeff Sharp responded.

Rick brought up that there have been a number of incidents where the Unit could

not field an OL. Given the circumstances, there might be times when a team might be fielded with a strong field leader and no OL.

TRAINING REPORT: Berndt
Bittlingmeier

Chris reported on the rigging training earlier this month. The field training was near the Fairfax Bridge and there was a lot of good practice.

The Search Management training planned for November has fallen through due to a lack of an instructor. Berndt and Fran are working on a new plan.

Fran reminded the group of the B-3 training to be held at Mount Rainier on Nov 8. The class will be on Saturday, and Sunday will be for hiking and climbing.

Mark Cooksley will be teaching the avalanche training in December.

EQUIPMENT REPORT: Randy Brake
Randy reported that he has been making minor replacements such as flares and batteries.

COMMUNICATIONS:
No report.

SAFETY & EDUCATION: Chris
Berryman
Several members taught classes and participated in kit sales at the Snowmobile Expo.

Rick taught an avalanche class to a bunch of skiers and snowmobilers.

Tim reminded everyone that the Banff Film Festival is coming up on December 9th in Tacoma. This is a Tuesday night.

Warren Miller film festival is on November 15th.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Dan Deprez
Dan has been contacted by a woman who has been involved in ESAR for six years and has taken a climbing course. She intends to apply for membership.

MRA: Jeff Sharp
Fran talked about the upcoming MRA Annual Business Meeting in Salt Lake City. She listed the expected costs for airfare, a room and registration. Fran requested funds for her and Jeff, of which a portion will be returned by MRA. The motion was made, seconded and passed. Rick will also attend and that will be additional funds for the airfare.

SAR COUNCIL:
This discussion will be tabled until next meeting.

AIR OPS: Tim Greminger
The B-3 class is November 8th and 9th.
See notes in training section.

OLD BUSINESS:
Steve and Berndt have a list of past members and presidents who they will be calling to invite to the banquet.

Fran has been working on the plan and a budget. Motion was made to approve funds for the banquet. Motion was seconded and passed.

NEW BUSINESS:
Ken Capron reported that Dee Mollenaar is working on a book and wants to include some information about the early years of TMRU.

Meeting Adjourned at 2035.

Respectfully yours,
Christine Davies, Secretary

KIT PARTY

There was no Kit Party in October due to a large inventory of Kits.

50TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL BANQUET

November 14th, the night of our banquet, is quickly approaching. at the Mountaineers clubhouse at N. 30th and Carr St. in Tacoma! The Unit will provide the main course (BBQ) and refreshment, but please bring a covered dish (appetizer, salad, bread, hot dish or dessert). Dinner will start at 6:00 P.M. As all of you know, the more you give the more you get back. That being said, I'll need some folks to help out with making this 50th Anniversary extra special. Below are some thing you can help with. Please email Fran with what you'd like to do and she will give you details.

-Photos to Rick Wire EVERYONE.
Rick is putting together a few of his great slideshows for the night. We are not planning on having a speaker so we'd like to show the history of TMRU. Digital format works the best but if you have slides, Rick can scan them and use them. Please get them to Rick as soon as possible.

-Raffle Prizes We should have a good turnout this year and we love giving away stuff. I need someone to head this up and be a collection point.

-Contacting previous members – Need

a couple folks who can contact by phone
some of our previous members and invite
them.

-Centerpieces for tables something to
spiff them up

-Banquet Day help setup the room a few
hours before the banquet