



Vol. 36 No.1

The Eugene Mountain Rescue Newsletter

January 2009

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

See the most current schedule of upcoming Eugene Mountain Rescue (EMR) Events at [www.eugenemountainrescue.org](http://www.eugenemountainrescue.org).

### SAR Missions involving EMR

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#### Willamette Pass Alpine Missing Skier

A Willamette Pass alpine skier split from his daughter at the top of the twilight lift and never arrived to meet her at the bottom of the hill. Willamette Pass Ski Patrol conducted a perimeter search on all ski tracks that departed the groomed runs. EMR was deployed and helped search the groomed runs and everything in between. The search continued into the night but was unsuccessful. The missing skier turned up at the rental shop the next morning. He apparently found himself off piste and ended up following a nordic trail away from the ski area. The skier spent the night in the Gold Lake Shelter and hiked out on his own. There were searchers from LCSO GSAR, Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol, and Deschutes County SAR. It was an exhausting search due to deep snow and heavy snowfall all night. EMR personnel involved in the search were Chris Jensen, George Baitinger, Kathy Jensen, Ken Ball, Larry Huff, Scott Robbins, Todd Hammans, and Wayne Deeter.

treated for minor injuries and returned home. EMR personnel involved in this search were Jason Rice and Tim Thoren.

#### Missing woman at McKenzie Bridge

This was a search for a 25-year-old woman who had been reported missing in late December. EMR, along with GSAR and U.S. Forest Service employees, searched roadside and campground areas along Horse Creek near McKenzie Bridge. The deceased subject was located approximately 100 feet from the road. EMR members participating in the search were April Anderson, Ken Ball, Sue Hutchinson Carey, Wayne Deeter, Todd Hammans, Don Harold, Michael Kelley, Michele McCall, Tim McCall, Don McLaughlin, Laurie Monico, Maryanne Reiter, Ray Smith, Tim Thoren, and John Tupper.

#### Missing Alzheimer's Patient

An 83-year-old man suffering from Alzheimer's was reported missing at 2:45 pm in Florence. He told his wife he was going out to find the cat and never returned. He left the house in his sweatpants, slippers, and stocking cap. Local law enforcement, firefighters, and local searchers performed a residential ground search with no success. Lane County Search and Rescue sent 17 volunteers to relieve them, mostly from the Explorer Scouts and GSAR. Searching continued in residential areas and along the road where the subject was last seen. The subject was located around 2 a.m., about 50 feet from the road. He was huddled deep into the underbrush. He was cold but responsive and was



April Anderson planning with SAR Coordinator. Photo by Tim Thoren.



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**Missing teen at Waldo Lake**

A teenager was reported missing while participating in a winter camping exercise with a youth organization at the southeast end of Waldo Lake. Ten members of EMR were en route to the Waldo Lake Sno-Park when the subject was located at the Willamette Pass Ski Area Lodge. EMR members participating included Wayne Deeter, Michele McCall, Danny Miller, Laurie Monico, Maryanne Reiter, Steve Cash, Jason Rice, Brian Roddy, Susan Sullivan, and Tim Thoren.

**Meetings and Practices**

**Patient Packaging and Litter Raising**

The four-station training conducted at the LCSO Shops included a review of patient care and packaging: Backboard, KED, SKED, and stretcher. Training then continued at Leaburg where the fire training tower was used to review both raise and lower systems as well as to practice litter rigging with attendants. EMR members involved were Jeremy Adolf, April Anderson, Sue Hutchinson Carey, Deb Carver, Wayne Deeter, Bob Harrison, Don Harrold, Larry Huff, Scot Hunt, Kathy Jensen, John Leavens, Maikey Lopera, Suzanne Makita, Michele McCall, Tim McCall, Roy McCormick, Juli McGlinsky, Danny Miller, Laurie Monico, John Mowat, John Pegg, Maryanne Reiter, Jason Rice, Cory Sipher, Susan Sullivan, Tim Thoren, and Susan Zeni.

**Congratulations to new members who have qualified for the callout list:**



Suzanne Makita



Juli McGlinsky



Patient packaging in the Shops.



Litter rigging with attendants.



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### Ground Search Techniques

Wayne Anderson gave a presentation on ground search techniques at the October Meeting. A follow-on weekend practice involved three stations in the morning: Clue awareness in various types of terrain; a "mini search" in an area littered with clues; and a "clue walk" along a fixed path to identify as many clues as possible. The afternoon involved a search scenario on the north side of Spencer Butte. An incident command was established and two teams searched segments on steep terrain. Teams made decisions on how to search safely and effectively. The "subject" was located after about an hour of searching. Sue Sullivan produced a detailed analysis of the clue walk and emailed it to all. Her report is a recommended, and enlightening, read. Members involved in the practice were April Anderson, Wayne Anderson, Ken Ball, Sue Hutchinson Carey, Wayne Deeter, Robert Graham, Bob Harrison, Larry Huff, Scot Hunt, Maikey Lopera, Roy McCormick, Juli McGlinsky, Danny Miller, Laurie Monico, John Mowat, Maryanne Reiter, Jason Rice, Brian Roddy, Susan Sullivan, Tim Thoren, and Susan Zeni.



Low angle systems training near Goodman Creek.  
Photo by Jess Ellingson

### Low Angle Systems and Litter Handling

The team met at Goodman Creek for our January practice. Members practiced litter rigging, litter carries and working with wheeled litters through and across various types of low-angle terrain. Follow-on training reviewed non-vertical raising and lowering systems. The afternoon brought the evacuation of "Suzie," a hiker who needed to be treated and evacuated over rough, low-angle terrain via a trail system. A transfer station was used between belay stations and the wheeled litter was employed once the subject was on the trail. Members participating included Sue Huthinson Carey, Steve Cash, Wayne Deeter, Jessica Ellingson, Bob Harrison, Don Harrold, Scot Hunt, John Leavens, Michele McCall, Tim McCall, Juli McGlinsky, Don McLaughlin, John Mowat, Greg Nieckarz, Casey Pape, John Pegg, Maryanne Reiter, Jason Rice, Brian Roddy, Susan Sullivan, and Tim Thoren.





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### Search and Rescue Navigation Systems

Sue Zeni and Wayne Deeter led the December meeting and a follow-on practice on common navigation systems used in search and rescue. Refresher training included map reading skills, using a map and compass, following bearings, using the GPS, and navigating during simulated glacier travel in a whiteout. Those attending were Jeremy Adolf, Ken Ball, Wayne Deeter, Jessica Ellingson, Robert Graham, Larry Huff, Scot Hunt, Rick Jensen, Michael Kelley, Maikey Lopera, Suzanne Makita, Michele McCall, Tim McCall, Juli McGlinsky, John Mowat, Maryanne Reiter, Jason Rice, Ray Smith, Susan Sullivan, Tim Thoren, John Tupper, and Susan Zeni.

### “Spring Cleaning” at the Lane County Shops (The center table sees the light of day!)

Members of EMR, GSAR, and Explorer Scouts met on a cold night in December to clean our shared spaces at the Lane County Shops. There was a great turnout from all groups and the entire area was cleaned, organized, and reassembled. The community gear was sorted and additional storage space was created. It was a much needed endeavor and the challenge now is to keep it clean. Thanks to those of you who helped: April Anderson, Sue Huthinson Carey, Michael Kelley, Roy McCormick, John Mowat, Mike Pyle, Jason Rice, Susan Sullivan, and Tim Thoren. Thanks to April and Sue for cleaning the “mystery goop” off the shelves and to Susan Sullivan for organizing the event. A great team effort!

### Wayne Deeter awarded with “Broken ‘Biner”

The coveted “Broken ‘Biner” Award was given to Wayne Deeter for his critical role in alerting Lane County dispatch to an “emergency” in a county vehicle.



Don't push the orange button.



Clean up crew in the equipment bay. Photo by Tim Thoren.



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## Exfoliation Dome

John Leavens & Brian Roddy, August '08

By Brian Roddy

Dragontail was delayed since neither of us had been on the sharp end much so we opted for what we thought would be a more straight forward climb. It turned out to be an excellent alpine rock adventure. We decided on the West Buttress of Exfoliation Dome outside Darrington, WA for our warm up day and then 3 o'clock rock for Sunday.

Ex Dome is a 4000' mountain itself and getting to the climb is half the fun. The road leading to the start was overgrown and eventually blocked by the remains of an avalanche that knocked trees across it. The climb starts with a 1500' walk up a 20 degree granite slab to the base. This is affectionately known as the "Sidewalk". It was good to get your friction head on before you get on the rock - but don't slip. You have to do a little N. Cascade bushwhacking around the steep & wet parts of the Sidewalk.



Roddy on the "Sidewalk"

Six pitches to the ledge and nine pitches to the top and we were both counting on the other to lead the crux. Leavens was paper and Roddy was rock and as Leavens led up P1, we both plotted how to avoid leading the

crux pitch, P3. When Leavens declared that the team behind should pass at the crux pitch because he might have a midlife crisis and take all day, Brian was not suckered and responded by pulling out a PB&J and announced "OK by me". The other group did pass, Leavens motored through with only a minor mid-life crisis, and in the end no one got pictures of the belly flop over the final crux so we will deny anything other than it was climbed in "fine form".



Leavens mounting the crux

Good things come to those that don't get suckered into the crux pitch. P4 was gorgeous - a zigzag of finger cracks, then hand cracks and finally leg cracks. After that we ran into the simul-climbing that can accompany route finding issues.

It was getting late so we neglected the 3 additional pitches to the top. As we prepared to rap, Leavens said the words that no Leavens' climbing partner wants to hear: "That wasn't so

bad, I don't see what all the fuss was about". What followed were the typical issues of rap route finding, sticking the rope, almost pulling a several hundred pound root wad on our heads,

Leavens climbing up the rap route to un-stick the rope and then running out of water. We barely made it back before dark so, as most of Leavens' climbing partners know, this should be considered a big success. Amazing that we got all that accomplished in just 6 pitches of climbing. We got our money's worth.

10:30 pm and in need of food, we passed on the hoppin' local cowboy bar and went to the small local's bar. We decided to leave when the painfully drunk guy (who was only referred to as "Boxcar") was fixing to get his a\*\* kicked by the bartender for trying to start something with Roddy.

While Exfoliation was a BLAST we were too dehydrated and knackered Sunday to do anything but drive to breakfast.

How was the rock? Yosemite-like granite with cracks and friction. Some dirt but pretty clean for alpine. Scenery A++, lots of snow and big mountains all around.



## THE 2009 EMR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICE HOLDERS, POSITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Front row: April Anderson, Stu Rich (Emeritus), Maryanne Reiter. Back row: Brian Roddy, Tim Thoren, Jason Rice, Tim McCall.

### New Board Members Elected

Board of Director elections were held at the December 2008 meeting. Maryanne Reiter remains our Training Coordinator, Jason Rice became the new Equipment Coordinator, and Tim Thoren is the Communications Coordinator. They join Tim McCall, President, Brian Roddy, Treasurer, and April Anderson, Secretary.

All board members of EMR serve a two-year term. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. Board meetings are open to the general membership and can provide some insight into how the organization is run.

Below is a summary of the current offices and their responsibilities:



### EMR BOARD

Position	Term ends	Responsibilities	Incumbent
President	2010	Chair Board and General meetings. Serve as liaison to the Lane County Sheriff's office and to other SAR groups in the state. Attend OMRC meetings.	Tim McCall
Communications Coordinator	2010	Oversee on-line communications (the Web Page), The Belay Line (newsletter), and the automated call-out system. Respond to inquiries made via EMR web page.	Tim Thoren
Training Coordinator	2010	Develop and organize training and meeting schedules and solicit training and meeting input. Track training status for advancement to Support or Rescue level. Oversee development of training materials. Liaison with new members	Maryanne Reiter
Equipment Coordinator	2010	Maintain EMR equipment in good order at the Shops; work with the Board and Sheriff's SAR Coordinator to determine current and future equipment needs.	Jason Rice
Secretary	2009	Take minutes at board meetings; check P.O. box for new applications, process applications and communicate with applicants; maintain EMR's official records.	April Anderson
Treasurer	2009	Maintain EMR's funds and monitor EMR P.O. box. Respond (notes of appreciation) to donors. Create annual financial statement.	Brian Roddy

**Other EMR duties and responsibilities are handled by appointment or by committees:**

Historian: Sue Sullivan. Maintains the scrap books which document EMR's missions and practices.

Data Base Administrator: John Mowat. Monitors the members database and insures that call-out information is correct. Provides information on member participation, insures mission and training information is entered into the database correctly.

Web page: Group effort to improve the layout and functionality of our web page. Tim Thoren, Bob Harrison, John Mowat, Michael Kelley, John Leavens and Wayne Deeter are all contributing to this effort.

Newsletter: Steve Cash. "The Belay Line" is published more or less quarterly.

Training materials development: Maryanne Reiter and Sue Sullivan. Ongoing project to generate general SAR as well as EMR-relevant training materials for posting on the member's side of the EMR website.



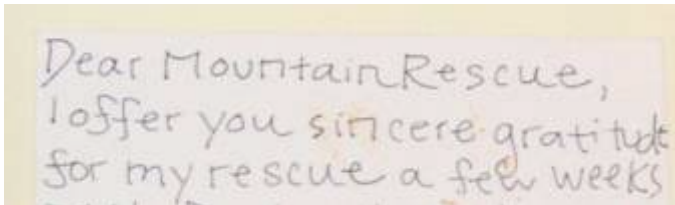
## Letters

We have received a number of letters from the people we have rescued or recovered and their families. Following are some excerpts from recent letters:

"Thanks to efforts from your organization, (climber) is recovering on (sic) the warmth of a bed versus never getting off (the mountain)"

"So many good people like yourselves gave so generously of their time, energy and resources to help our family during our time of crisis and for that we will forever be grateful."

"I am absolutely convinced you saved my daughter's life. Thank you! I know it is not much for saving a life, please accept my check for \$1,000 to buy equipment or use in any way you deem appropriate. ...Thank you again for the very important work you do."



ago...(I) saw the light of the search and rescue team and heard my name. There in the dark were strangers. Strangers who dropped everything and wandered out into the darkest night of the year, up and down hills to find me. ...If that's not love, I don't know what is."

## Avalanche Transceiver Warning

(Reported by National Ski Patrol on January 22, 2009)

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PIEPS GmbH of Austria, one of several manufacturers of avalanche rescue transceivers, has become aware of a potential issue involving carrying the PIEPS DSP avalanche transceiver in close proximity to the Motorola Model GP340 radio transceiver.

Although the GP340 radio is a European version, it is very similar to the Motorola HT750 series used in North America.

Avalanche rescue transceivers are extremely sensitive devices, and can be affected by the magnet found in a radio speaker. If the radio, or even a speaker-microphone, comes in close proximity with the avalanche transceiver, magnetic fields are present that can activate magnetic switches in the PIEPS DSP to turn it off or change it from transmit mode to search mode. This is NOT a Motorola radio issue-this is NOT a radio frequency issue-it doesn't matter if you are using VHF, UHF, or 800 MHz radios-it's a magnetism issue that apparently affects other transceiver brands and models as well.

The manufacturers of avalanche rescue transceivers also caution users against wearing clothing containing permanent magnets (e.g. magnetic button closures, magnetic nametags) while operating avalanche rescue transceivers.

The issue is being investigated and is of no immediate cause for alarm. It does not appear to affect transceivers that are carried according to the separation criteria already specified in the PIEPS DSP owner's manual (at least 15 cm [6"] from other devices while in "send" mode, and 1.5 m [approx. 5 feet] while in "search" mode).

However, the situation should serve as a reminder for all users of avalanche transceivers to read their owner's manual, and observe the criteria specified for separation distance between their transceiver and other potential sources of magnetic interference, regardless of brand or model.



## EMR Callout System - by Tim Thoren

Lane County Search and Rescue and EMR are both using the Automated Callout System (ACS), and most of you are familiar with it. The purpose of this article is to remind you how it works and to request your feedback on your experiences to date. When searchers need to be activated, a member of the LCSO or EMR records a message with general information about the subject, the search, the specific time and place to meet, as well as any other important relevant information on search. Once recorded, a computer-generated call (and often text messages) is made to everyone being called out. Everyone receives the message from the computer at the same time.

So what do you do when you get the ACS call? Follow these few, but important, steps:

- **Answer the call.** The caller-ID number displayed on your phone will always be (781) 557-6999. Whether you answer the call or your voicemail picks up, the first thing you will hear is a short musical melody (this is added to enable your voicemail system to respond before the voice message begins). The callout details will follow the music.
- **Listen to the computer introductory message.** When you answer the phone, a computerized voice says "This is a message from Eugene Mountain Rescue" or "This is a message from Lane County Search and Rescue." Follow the instruction and press "1" to hear the message. You must press "1" or the computer will not play the message.
- **Listen to the recorded call-out message.** The call-out message will have been recorded by someone from EMR or LCSO and will contain important information about the mission, details of the search, and a phone number to call if you

are able to respond. Be prepared to write down important mission details (and telephone numbers). If you desire to hear the message a second (or third) time, you will be given the option to replay the recording at the end of the message.

- If you can respond to the callout, be sure to call the number given in the message.
- If you cannot respond, you do not need to do anything.

The company providing this service is "Telemessage" ([www.telemessage.com](http://www.telemessage.com) if you are curious). We maintain a separate callout database on their website. Please note -- If you get a new telephone number or want to change your current callout number, please notify Tim Thoren as soon as possible so that he can update your information on the "Telemessage" database. You will still need to manage your own callout roster phone numbers and other personal data on the EMR website. If you are experiencing difficulty with callouts, have questions about the process, or have any feedback to share, please do not hesitate to contact Tim Thoren at [tim.thoren@gmail.com](mailto:tim.thoren@gmail.com).

That's it! Everyone gets called quickly and efficiently. See you on the next mission.



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**Editor's Tidbits**



Okay, we are back into the winter season – well, except that we don't have much snow. But, winter is winter and there's ice climbing, winter peak bagging and the like. Plus, the winter training and winter rescues we have conducted and have yet to do. So...that means you should be sending me photos, tales of epic woe, gear reviews, technical

notes and anything else you can think of to clog my inbox. Right!?

Thanks to all for the photos and material you provided for this issue.

**2008 EMR Board Members**

- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| President                  | Tim McCall      |
| Secretary                  | April Anderson  |
| Treasurer                  | Brian Roddy     |
| Training Coordinator       | Maryanne Reiter |
| Equipment Coordinator      | Jason Rice      |
| Communications Coordinator | Tim Thoren      |

**General Information**

Eugene Mountain Rescue (EMR) specializes in search and rescue missions involving high angle or remote settings and works in close association with the Lane County Sheriffs Search and Rescue.

Training practices are held once a month covering suspension systems, winter survival skills, avalanche/snow SAR, search techniques, tracking, glacier travel and crevasse rescue, map and compass practice and the use of radios.

EMR also holds monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of each month (except in the summer) where we conduct refresher training on first aid, tying common rescue knots, rescuer safety, avalanche awareness, incident command system, and general equipment upkeep.

Anyone interested in learning more about EMR can find additional information on our website and everyone is invited to attend the monthly meetings.

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Website: [www.eugenemountainrescue.org](http://www.eugenemountainrescue.org)

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This newsletter can be obtained in PDF format from the EMR website - [www.eugenemountainrescue.org](http://www.eugenemountainrescue.org)



Eugene Mountain Rescue is a member of the Mountain Rescue Association.