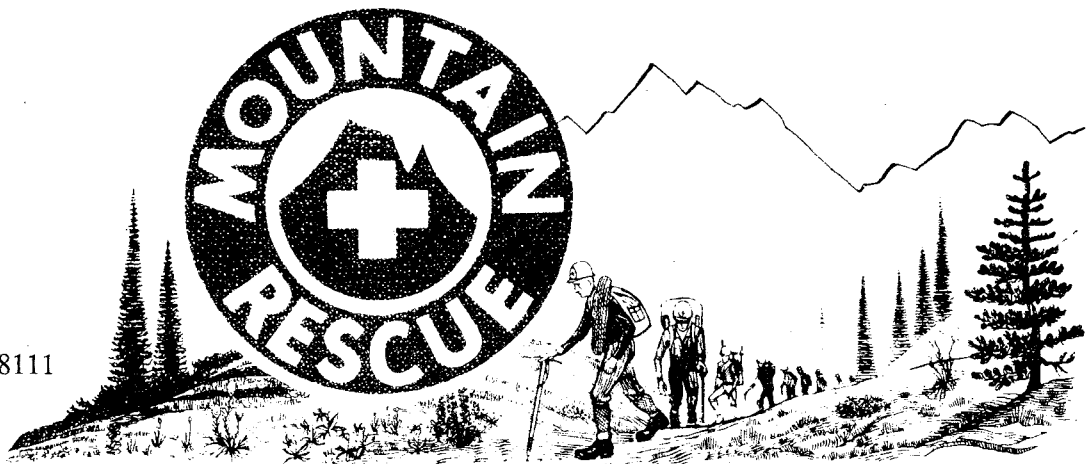


# MOUNTAIN RESCUE COUNCIL

P.O. Box 67

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98111

## BERGTRAGE



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Number 132

December, 1988

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### COMING EVENTS

January 9	King County SAR Assn., King County Public Works Shops, 155 Monroe Avenue NE, Renton	7:30 PM
January 18	MRC Board Meeting, Seafirst Fifth Avenue Plaza Bldg, 800 5th, Seattle.	7:30 PM
January 18	Avalanche Training Seminar, class. (See page 2.)	7:30 PM
January 21 - 22	Avalanche Training Seminar, field work.	
January 26	Puget Sound Region SAR, Angle Lake Fire Dept, 2929 South 200, Des Moines	7:30 PM
February 4	State SAR Assn., Courthouse, Ellensburg	1:00 PM
February 13	King County SAR Assn., King County Public Works Shops, 155 Monroe Avenue NE, Renton	7:30 PM
February 17	MRC Board Meeting, Seafirst Fifth Avenue Plaza Bldg, 800 5th, Seattle.	7:30 PM
February 25	Washington Mountain Rescue Association, Fire Dept., 2nd and Main, North Bend.	10:00 AM
March 13	King County SAR Assn., King County Public Works Shops, 155 Monroe Avenue NE, Renton	7:30 PM
March 15	MRC Board Meeting, Seafirst Fifth Avenue Plaza Bldg, 800 5th, Seattle.	7:30 PM

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### NEW MEMBER

We have gained one new member this Fall: Bruce Beckmann has transferred to Seattle MRC from the Alpine Rescue Group in Evergreen, Colorado. Welcome Bruce!

### ELECTIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

Elections for three board positions will be held in January, and the nominating committee is looking for MRC members willing and interested in serving on the board. If you are interested, call Rob Jackson at 641-2415 or Pete Bustanoby at 237-1750 before December 28.

### NEW WMRA OFFICERS

New officers of the Washington Mountain Rescue Association were announced at the WMRA meeting at Mt Rainier in September. The new officers are: President, Ted Case (Everett MRU); Vice President, Pete Bustanoby (Seattle MRC); Secretary, Steve Reese (Central Washington MRC).

## MRC Avalanche Training Seminar

Dates: January 18, 21 - 22.

Where: Classroom lecture: To be announced.  
Field lectures: Crystal Mountain

Skiing ability: Intermediate or better downhill, backcountry, or 3-pin technique.

Cost: \$40. + lift ticket at Crystal Mtn. + lodging

Topics: Classroom: introduction to avalanches, avalanche type and motion, snowpack and snowpits, introduction to snow crystals.  
Field: Terrain evaluation and routefinding; stability evaluation; rescue organization and management; pieps practice and search techniques.

Signup: Call Mike Kalvelage or Diane Eldrenkamp, tel. 222-7167.

## FIRST AID COURSES

Several first aid courses of interest to MRC members will be given during the coming months.

### Standard MOFA Review Course:

This 18 hour course is intended for those who have a current Standard Red Cross card and want to recertify. The course will meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings in February (Feb. 6, 8, 13, 15, 22, 27). The fee is \$15.50, and the instructors will be John Hays, Paul LeRoy, and Tom Hudson. For registration or more information call Mike Kalvelage or Diane Eldrenkamp.

### Standard MOFA Courses:

Three standard courses are being offered; one in Renton, one at the Montlake Community Center in Seattle, and another at Bellevue Community College in Bellevue. See page 17 of the December *Mountaineer*, or call the American Red Cross at 323-2345.

### Advanced MOFA Course:

This is a 30 hour course which will build on the Standard MOFA Course and go beyond. A current Standard Card is a prerequisite. The course will meet on Wednesdays (7-10 PM) and Saturdays (9 AM - 5 PM) in January and February with a final meeting on Thursday evening: January 22, 25; February 1, 4, 8, 11, 16. The fee is \$30, and the instructor is MRC's David Shema. Signup begins in early January; call the American Red Cross (tel. 323-2345) for further information.

## TECHNICAL RESCUE SYMPOSIUM -- A REPORT

The Fourth North American Technical Rescue Symposium was held at Fort Collins Colorado, from November 10 - 13, 1988. Seattle MRC's Pete Bustanoby and Denny Fenstermaker both took part. Here is a report from Pete:

The participants in the symposium were probably 70% firefighters and urban rescuers, and 30% mountain rescuers. There were 21 lecture topics ranging from exotic high angle Yosemite techniques, to "new rope for the military." All the topics were very interesting, and we learned a lot. Here are some brief sketches of the major presentations and topics of discussion.

### 1. Understanding the Tyrolean traverse:

This lecture was a real eye opener. It seems that a 7/16 (11 mm.) rope is inadequate for rigging a Tyrolean with any room for safety. This fact was echoed by all the rope manufacturing gurus present and backed up by very impressive technical papers. Some rules of thumb: Use

either two 7/16 in., or one 1/2 in., rope for the tight line. Use dynamic ropes for anchors when possible to act as shock absorbers. Never tension the tight line perfectly straight; sag = safety. Tension forces approach catastrophic levels when the tight line approaches horizontal.

## **2. Limitations of the Good Samaritan Law:**

Do you know a good lawyer? Would you like to meet one? In court? All this dude has to do is convince a jury of your peers that you acted in gross negligence -- be it in good faith -- and you will possibly lose your shirt. The rescue arena is not the place to practice techniques or exercise logic processes foreign to the rest of the rescue community.

## **3. A different ratchet system:**

This lecture told of how a seemingly benign practice raise went sour. In the process of raising two litter attendants and subject during a practice, a well-known rescue unit experienced the following problems: Using the standard Z-pulley with three haulers, they noticed the rope sheath under the mechanical ratchet (clog) starting to herniate. Upon replacing the clog with prussiks, these too started to fail. At this point, the raise was terminated and all lowered to the ground. Whew...!!! Not a pretty sight. Lessons to be learned: (1) Be careful of friction. It can increase tension in a system to the point where 3-4 haulers can pull a system to failure. (2) Never trust any mechanical camming device to rescue loads, i.e. anything over 400 lbs. or any load that may become dynamic. (3) If your prussiks are slipping, it is reasonable to assume that the Z-system is in the process of failing. Stop tension, re-evaluate the situation, and make the necessary changes.

## **4. Helicopter safety procedures:**

Alas...!! More data supporting the gut feeling that these machines may be hazardous to your health. Lots of horror stories equally laced with life - saving epics. The good news: helicopters are coming! The bad news: helicopters are coming.

If any MRC members would like to discuss any of these or related topics, please feel free to call at any time. Pete Bustanoby, Rescue Chairman.

## **A.S.T.M. -- A REPORT**

Paul Williams represented MRC at the Phoenix meeting of the ASTM committee to set standards for Search and Rescue on December 2 - 4, 1988.

Paul's assignments include the committee on Rescue Operation and Technology, and he has been selected as the chairman of the key sub-committee on Extraction, Evacuation and Transportation. This sub-committee is responsible for the areas of subterranean, structural, vehicular, water, mountainous, and non-mountainous terrain. Paul also serves as the chairman of the sub-committee on Minimum Performance Requirements of the committee on Personnel, Training, and Education.

Another MRA past national president, Phil Umholtz of the Bay Area Mountain Rescue Group, has been selected as the Secretary and Acting Chairman of the committee on Search and Rescue Management. This committee includes, as part of its responsibility, the final version of Incident Command System for SAR, and the modified version prepared by long-time MRA activist Lee Lucas of China Lake MRG has been chosen as a working model for further study.

This places mountain rescue people in key positions and should make it possible for us to influence this critical activity.

## **MISSIONS**

### **88-32 - Gold Creek, Snohomish Co., Search , September 11,12, 1988**

Laura Wood, 25, from Issaquah, was reported missing during the evening of September 11; she had been seen last at about 1725 at Ridge Lake just off the Pacific Crest Trail.

Bill Davis responded to a page from the King County sheriff's office at 2323 and called Bustanoby. A team of four MRC members arrived at Snoqualmie Pass at 0430 on September 12, received a briefing, and started towards Ridge Lake at 0500. They reached Ridge Lake at about 0730, but found no sign of the subject. The MRC group split into two teams, one of which began

searching in the direction of Alaska Lake. The other team continued searching along the Crest Trail. At 0915 an ESAR team established voice contact with the subject; she was on the slopes of Kendall Peak, about 600 feet above the creek. She was located in good condition and transported by helicopter to Snoqualmie Pass, arriving there by 1430.

Seattle MRC participants included: In-Town OL, Pete Bustanoby. Base OL, Bill Davis. Field, Rob Jackson, Deb Riehl, Don Slack.

Seattle MRC personnel, 5; Man-hours, 84; Miles, 330.

### **88-33 - Peak 4608, Lake Quinault Area, Search - Rescue, September 18 - 20, 1988**

Donald Miller, a 48 year old logger from Gray's Harbor, was elk hunting on an unnamed rocky ridge near Lake Quinault with a companion on September 17. They ascended the steep ridge near its east end, and later found that they were unable to descend. After spending that night on the ridge, Miller refused to descend, and they could not find their ascent route. Miller's companion went for help.

Seattle MRC was contacted on 9-18-88 at 2345, and responded initially with a team of three. They worked with a group from Olympic Mountain Rescue on 9-19, but were unable to locate Miller. The second team arrived at 1500 on 9-19, and continued the search early on 9-20; a third team arrived at search base at 0500 on 9-20.

Despite poor weather and some mechanical problems, a MAST helicopter conducted a search of the wrong peak late in the day of 9-19.

Fortunately Miller stayed in his location on the ridge and did not try to descend. He was spotted by a MAST helicopter carrying MRC's Pfister and a USFS Ranger as spotters at about 1000 on 9-20. He was pulled out by the helicopter a short time later with MRC's Fenstermaker and Cleary within 200 vertical feet of the ridge summit and within shouting distance.

Seattle MRC participants included: In-Town OL: George Sainsbury, and Pete Bustanoby. Base OL: Paul Williams. Field OL: Dennis Fenstermaker and Gordon Pfister. Truck: Bill Lahr. Field: Ed Boulton, Rod Chelgren, Jim Cleary, Glenn Eades, Al Gerber, Tim O'Brien, Gayle Olcott, Deb Riehl, Don Slack, Bob Upton. Call-out committee: Matie Daiber, Dixie Gatchel, Jan McGruder, Marian Alloway, Al Ellsworth, Pete Frickland.

Seattle MRC personnel, 22; Man-hours, 385; Miles, 1749.

### **88-34 - Lake Christine, Pierce Co., Rescue, September 19, 1988**

An 18 year old hiker, Robert Paschell, was reported overdue in the area of Lake Christine near the Rainier Park border on 9-18. He was located by a search dog "Hawkeye" and his handler Howard Junge (who had left the trailhead at 0430 to begin the search) at about 0900 on 9/19. He had taken a tumbling fall over a 10' cliff in the rocky pinnacles about 400' above the lake, and had possible back and knee injuries. Despite frequent rainfall during the night, Robert had kept himself warm and dry by crawling into a small cave.

The Seattle MRC team reached the victim at about 0930. After raising him to a notch in the ridge about 250' above, he was lowered another 800' through easier terrain to Lake Christine and the trail, and then transported via wheeled litter and help from ESAR to the trailhead, arriving there at about 1530.

Seattle MRC participants included: In-Town OL: Pete Bustanoby. Field: Diane Eldrenkamp, Rob Jackson, Mike Kalvelage, Susan Price, Bob Shoemaker, Jack Wassom.

Seattle MRC personnel, 7; Man-hours, 90; Miles, 240.

### **88-35 - Rimrock Lake, Yakima County, Standby for Search, October 16, 1988**

A 15 year old male hunter was reported overdue in the Rimrock Lake area late on October 16. Joe Roemer from Central Washington MRC called Seattle MRC at 2200 asking for as many members as possible on standby for the search.

The subject was located on Monday, October 17, and the standby was called off.

Seattle MRC participants included: Greg Anderson, Jim Baker, Ed Boulton, Pete Bustanoby, Ernest Dietrich, Victor Ericson, Al Gerber, Dave Haavik, Murray Hart, Roger Heather, Steve Jewett,

David Larsen, Tim McGruder, Jiri Rabas, Steve Sieberson, Jack Wassom, Paul Williams, Call-out committee: Marion Alloway, Cathy Ellsworth, Dixie Gatchel, Vicki Ward.

Seattle MRC personnel, 21; Man-hours, 10; Miles, 0.

**88-36 - Camp Sheppard, Search, November 14, 1988**

At the November KCSARA meeting, the King County Police received a page concerning a downed aircraft. Together with Seattle MRC's Bill Davis, they plotted the coordinates of the aircraft and determined that it was down near Camp Sheppard, along highway 410, in Pierce County. They therefore referred the problem to the Pierce County Sheriff's office. Pierce County alerted Tacoma MRU for a possible search, and Jeff Sharp from Tacoma MRU called Seattle MRC for assistance later that same evening. The mission was called off at 2330 after Pierce County Police determined that the downed aircraft was a Weyerhaeuser helicopter on the pad at the small landing field near Camp Sheppard with its emergency locator beacon on by mistake.

Seattle MRC participants: Bill Davis, Rob Jackson.

Seattle MRC personnel, 2; Man-hours 2; Miles, none.

**88-37 - Mount Hood, Alert for Search, November 18, 1988**

The Clackamas County, Oregon, Sheriff's department contacted MRC Chairman Greg Prothman late in the morning to request a team to help with a search for a missing skier in the Mt. Hod area. Greg started to contact personnel for a fast response and line up emergency air transportation. The sheriff's department contacted Prothman shortly after noon to report that James January, 23, of Madras, Oregon, had been located below th Victoria ski lift at 11:25 AM and was being evacuated. He was cold, wet, and hungry, but in good condition.

Seattle MRC participants included: Greg Prothman and Warren Thompson in town, and Steve Jewett, Pete Bustanoby, and Al Errington on standby.

Seattle MRC personnel, 5; Man-hours, 4; Miles, none.

**88-38 - Brown's Creek Campground, Mason Co., Alert for Search, November 20, 1988**

Ernest Groatz, 56, from Port Orchard, went into the woods to hunt with companions on November 20. He intended to meet them later in the day. When he failed to keep the proposed rendezvous, the family was immediately concerned because of previous heart problems. This caused the Sheriff to start the search earlier than normal. He alerted various groups, including Olympic Mountain Rescue. Brad Albro from Olympic Mountain Rescue contacted George Sainsbury at 1610. Sainsbury conferred with Bustanoby and established a 0300 rendezvous at Southcenter in preparation for beginning the search at dawn on 11/21. At 1635 Sainsbury received a report that the subject walked out.

Seattle MRC participants included: In-Town: George Sainsbury and Pete Bustanoby.

Seattle MRC personnel, 2; Man-hours, none; Miles, none.

**This 'N That . . . .** OME DAIBER is currently residing in the Arden Nursing Home at 16357 Aurora Avenue North, Seattle. If you plan to visit, phone first, as he will probably be moved to a different location shortly . . . . . our authors are at it again -- former Vice-Chairman TED and Secretary MARGE MUELLER have just had their fourth book published by the Mountaineers. *North Puget Sound, Afoot and Afloat* joins two previous volumes in this series . . . . . and GENE PRATER, long-time mainstay of Ellensburg Mountain Rescue was treated to a big party by well-wishers on the occasion of the revision of his well-known *Snowshoeing*. Several Seattle MRC members (past and present) made the trip to Ellensburg for the bash, including JOYCE and STAN BUTCHART, DEE MOLENAAR, ED BOULTON, JIM KURTZ, BOB SWENSON, and PETE SCHOENING . . . . . PAUL WILLIAMS has been invited to speak at the State SAR Association meeting in February on the A.S.T.M. . . . . a group including MRC members AL and ANN ERRINGTON, JIM and CHAR BAKER, GAYLE OLCOTT, and CHRIS MADDEN are headed for New Zealand in late January and early February for three weeks of white water kayaking and a possible climb of Mt. Cook . . . . . MRC

members DON GOODMAN and JOHN PETROSKE returned safely from their trip to Everest and climbing efforts with the Northwest American Everest expedition. They didn't summit themselves (several other members of the expedition did summit), partly because of their help in getting members of other teams off the mountain. Our next issue will contain a full report.

### Council Officers

<b>Chairman</b>	Greg Prothman	789-6062
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Warren Thompson	878-7786
<b>Secretary</b>	George Sainsbury	232-5506
<b>Treasurer</b>	Timothy P. O'Brien	454-2907
<b>Rec'd Secretary</b>	Ann Errington	631-5017

### Elected Board Members

Through 1988:		Through 1989:		Through 1990:	
Bill Davis	888-1124	Jim Baker	255-5145	Ed Boulton	525-5643
Dane Doerflinger	522-8518	Dennis Fenstermaker	522-8518	Gayle Olcott	235-4641
Allan Ellsworth	481-8802	Martha Lentz	362-9164	Chris Madden	226-7082

### MOUNTAIN RESCUE INFORMATION NUMBER:

**522 -8449** - The telephone answering machine that serves as a central source of information regarding rescue missions. Typical information includes who the Base OL is, what the rendezvous times are, and other pertinent related information. The number is listed in the phone book under "Mountain Rescue Council" and in the yellow pages under "Rescue Services".