



SEATTLE MOUNTAIN RESCUE WEB NEWSLETTER MAY 2006



**"Your Tasks are Now Complete,
Your Duties You've Well Done,
The Final Pipes Now Toll For You,
You are Going Home" - Unknown
MEMORIAL DAY** - from the MRA Honor Guard Website



King County Search and Rescue Association

KCSARA was organized and became operational on February 1, 1965 as a non-profit, volunteer group and is made up of the 10 SAR groups operating in King County. King County Search and Rescue Association is made up of more than 750 members who volunteer a considerable amount of time, personal equipment, and knowledge, to help those in need. Each year we respond to more than 100 missions ranging from searching for missing children and adults in urban areas throughout King County, rescuing lost and injured recreationists in our forests and wilderness, and locating critical evidence at crime scenes for local law enforcement. In addition to local involvement, King County Search and Rescue responds to requests for help from across Washington State and throughout the United States. In 2003 our members responded as far away

as Alaska and Texas, providing unique knowledge to a variety of diverse operations. The current President of KCSAR is SMR's Chris Madden and Doug Caley is the Vice Pres. Here are a couple of things that came out of the last meeting. *Doug Caley*

Unit Leaders Meeting April 18, 2006

State SAR Conference

The 2006 Washington State SAR conference will be held in King County this year on May 19,20,&21 at the King County Fairgrounds in Enumclaw. They are looking for volunteers to help with the SAR conference. If you volunteer 12 hours you get into the conference for free. You can sign up on the web at www.wasar2006.org/volunteer. Right now they are looking for

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

help stuffing envelopes on May 13th at 10am at the 7300 bldg.

Unit Reports

Trackers: Membership is down

SMR: Two Missions over the weekend.

ESAR: Expressed concern over being asked to giggling door knobs to see if they are locked on in town missions.

4x4: Damaged a vehicle on the McClellans Butte mission (Piece of steel through the door?) They reported good cooperation between the units on the mission.

Horse: Training going well with 8 new people. Doing all of their own instructing this year.

KCP:

Problems with other units on a mission please bring the issue up with the SAR deputy. On a recent mission there was a miss understanding between two unit OL's that could have been solved had it been brought up with the SAR deputy.

If a mission is a **turn around** please fax your rosters down to the County at 206 205-8282.

The other news from the meeting last night is that Jim McMeins confirmed that **Medic 1st Aid** does qualify for the WAC requirement.

FEMA TRAINING

A couple of things came out during the unit leaders meeting last night that need to be communicated to unit members. The first is one of changing training requirements. This is a good news/ bad news situations. The good news is that after 911 Federal Money has become available to local governments to support their emer-

gency response. The bad news is that the money comes with a few strings attached. In order for the state of Washington, and King County to remain qualified to receive these funds they must require all of their emergency workers (including volunteers) to complete some federal training. The goal is for all emergency workers across the county to use common leadership structure and terms. This will allow Emergency workers to be deployed anywhere in the county and blend into the management structure. The goal here is good and makes sense.

The other good news is that they have made the training fairly painless and easily available. The two classes that are currently required are NIMS ICS-100 and IS-700. You can take these classes on line at <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp/> and they are quick and easy to complete. Members have until September 30th to complete these classes.

Because of the funding that requires this training the County does not have the option of being flexible on requiring this training. After September 30th they will only be able to use SAR members who have completed this training for missions. So encourage your members to get this training completed soon. If you run into any issues be sure to bring them up early



NEXT BOARD MEETING

Plan now to attend the next SMR Board Meeting on May 18th, the 3rd Thursday of the month. All members are welcome.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

so that we get everyone through these classes before the deadline.

Doug Caley, Vice President, KCSARA

RESCUE RECAPS FOR APRIL AND MAY

04/08/2006—Incident at the Sunshine Wall near Vantage

About 12:30 pm, Gretchen Lentz was belaying "GK" (wishes to remain anonymous) who was AID climbing the Shrinking Balls Disease route (5.11b, C2) at Sunshine Wall in Vantage. GK was near the top of



the pitch and AID climbing on a Lepper camming hook. While reaching high to place a piece, the cam hook shifted and he took a leader fall. A yellow Alien below caught his fall. About 5 feet into the fall, GK struck his left ankle and then continued falling for about 20-25 ft. The belayer was anchored and easily caught the fall, but because GK was well above the last piece and AIDing on cam hooks (plus rope stretch with most of the rope out) it was a longer fall. GK had only the injury to his left ankle, but could not finish the pitch. There was a bolt about 5 feet to the side on another route, so GK anchored to that piece. He could not set up an appropriate anchor, so he was lowered on the yellow Alien with a back up to the bolt. His ankle was inspected and found to have mild swelling and considerable tenderness but

no deformity. It appeared to be sprained. Lentz taped the ankle and GK was able to hobble out to the car with assistance. Gene Yore had gotten another 60m rope from Zig Zag Wall and set up an anchor from the top of the route. Lentz cleaned the route, tying off short on the top rope and with Yore and others helped collect the gear and carry it out. All were out of the field by 3pm. GK's ankle was x-rayed on Tuesday and there was no fracture or tearing, only a sprain and swelling. SMR members: Gretchen Lentz, Gene Yore and Jeff Bowman (standby). SMR Hours: 4

Gretchen Lentz

04/15/2006 – DEM#06-0859 – Rescue of Hiker with Leg Cramps, Mt Si Trail

Around 1400 on Saturday, April 15th, SMR, ESAR, SPART and 4x4 were all paged for a "hypothermic" hiker on the Mt Si trail who was reported to be at 2 plus miles up the trail. The SMR truck arrived at the trailhead at 1515 where Deputy McMeins reported that the 28 year old male hiker was apparently suffering severe leg cramps while descending the trail and was encountered by a group of Boy Scouts accompanied by a doctor who called 911. In the meantime an ESAR member who happened to be on the trail reached the Subject and reported on his cell phone that the Subject was walking slowly out on his own with assistance. At 1430, Rusho headed up the trail followed later by Gerber and at 1500 Rusho met the descending party and continued to the trailhead arriving without incident at 1545. By this time the Subject was in better spirits and no longer in distress. The Subject was

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

very well clothed and equipped and had hiked Mt Si several times before, however this was his first long hike this season. His leg cramps were probably the result of dehydration since he stated he did not drink on the way up and only started drinking water after the cramps. The Subject thanked all the volunteers for coming out to help him. SMR participants included: Timmy Williams (Intown OL), Art Farash (Base/Truck), Alan Gerber, Dave Rusho and Doug Hutton for 11.75 hours and 172 driving miles.

Art

04/15-16/2006 - RESCUE - INJURED SNOWSHOER - McCLELLANS BUTTE



At approximately 18:44 SMR received a page from the KCSO requesting assistance with an injured climber on McClellan

Butte. A party of four had reached the summit after snow hiking on the "110 spur road" to within approximately 900 feet of the summit. Rather than descending back to end of the spur road they decided on a more direct, shorter route down from the summit back to the spur road. After descending about 800 on snow and in heavy timber M. W., a 47 year old male fell injuring his lower leg (possible boot top FX). The party contacted KCSO by cell phone requesting assistance.

Farash and Prothman arrived and contacted the on scene Deputy. The party's car had not been located yet so Prothman joined the Deputy in his vehicle. Prothman made contact with the reporting party (RP) via cell phone and got better

directions to where they left their car. The car was finally located on the 110 spur road at the snowline and tracks were spotted heading up the spur road. The normal trail and route to the summit is on the other side of the mountain off the 9020 road.

At approximately 19:30 hours Anschell, Brothers and Loewen were the first team in the field with the object of locating subject party, Anschell was appointed Field Operations Leader. Base was established on the 9020 road at the Iron Horse trail intersection. Subsequent teams comprised of SMR and ESAR personnel were dispatched with the requisite rescue equipment including 300 ft ropes, a litter and rigging kits. In all approximately 30 rescuers were in the field.

At approximately 22:20 Team One indi-



cated they had followed the spur road to a location they thought might be vertically below the subject party at an elevation of 3800 ft. Prothman contacted the RO by cell phone and asked if they had a whistle and if they could whistle a signal ever couple of minutes. Shortly thereafter at 22:27 team one heard a whistle uphill from the road. After climbing uphill about

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

600 feet they made contact with the party and patient at 22:45. Brothers (an EMTB) assumed medical responsibility for the patient. After getting all rescue gear up to the patient and setting up lowering systems, teams began lowering evolutions at 00:45. Four low angle lowers were required to reach the spur road at 01:35. Teams then began traversing the spur road back to the snowline with all teams reaching the end of the spur road at 03:30. All teams were back in base by 04:00. The patient was seen by Eastside Fire and Rescue and released to be transported to the hospital by private vehicle. The mission was concluded at 04:30. SMR Personnel: 14 SMR Hours: 101 SMR Miles: 805

Greg Prothman

04/23/2006 - INCIDENT – ICICLE BUTTRESS ACCIDENT, CHELAN COUNTY

At approximately 1630 on Sunday 23 April 2006 I heard and witnessed Ron L. take a 60'+ leader fall on an unnamed route left of R&D on Icicle Buttress outside Leavenworth; I had just completed R&D with 5 first-year Intermediate students as part of a Mountaineers field trip. The subject ended up hanging upside down on his back about 100' above his belayer at the base of the route, not moving or responding to the yells of his belayer or members of my party. 911 was called, and my party reassembled at his belay. I climbed up to Ron's position using the accident rope as a fixed line, made an assessment and passed the information to Chelan County Fire by cell phone. By the time I arrived Ron was conscious, somewhat alert and oriented, complaining of back

and shoulder pain and was bleeding from a small scalp laceration. Two members of my party ascended the now-fixed accident rope to assist me, bring a c-collar and a radio; based on the information I provided, the Chelan paramedics and IC gave me permission to lower the subject to the base of the climb with an attendant but no litter. The paramedics and Chelan County technical rescue team (not Chelan County Mountain Rescue) were waiting at the base of the route. One of my students set up a pair of 3-piece anchors on large ledges about 10' above the patient, the other student remained with Ron and tied into two ropes as the attendant. I ran the lowering system and my other student ran the belay; Ron and the attendant were lowered to the base of the route without incident and care was taken over by the Paramedics. Ron was then lowered to the road by the Chelan County team using a tracking line. Due to a shortage of trained rescuers, I ran the main-line during the tracking line operation. Ron delivered the road and transported by ambulance to the Wenatchee hospital. All personnel were out of the field by 1930. SMR Hours: 3

Mike Maude

IN MEMORY OF



Last Thursday Charlie Borgh, Climbing Ranger at Mt. Rainier, and member of Yosemite's Search and Rescue Team, was killed in an avalanche descending from the summit of Mt. Deltaform in the Canadian Rockies. It's worth noting that

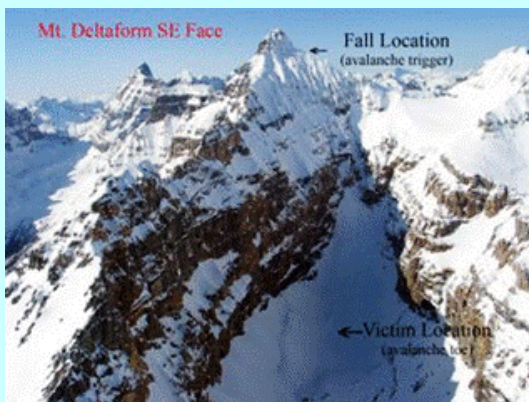
(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

his partner, Gabe, survived the 3,500 foot fall with severe injuries including broken femurs and a collapsed lung, but survived four days before a search party from the RCMP finally reached him. Charlie started working at Mt. Rainier as a Climbing Ranger in 2002, and participated in some of the most difficult and dangerous rescues on the mountain for the past four years, eventually landing a job as a Team Leader, and, as we have teams of 2, he was also my main climbing partner at work and a good friend. He was one of the happiest and most competent people in the mountains that I have ever known.

He was 26 when he died. He's survived by his parents and his fiancée, Christina. His funeral is in Minnesota, but plans are in the works for a service in Washington, probably at the Park, for sometime in May.

Bree Loewen



Charlie and his climbing partner Gabe Coler just completed an ascent of Super Couloir on Mount Deltaform. Super Couloir is a Grade IV, 5.8 rock and ice route up the north face of the peak. Charlie did not survive the fall but miraculously Gabe did. He is now recovering with a broken femur and a variety of other injuries. It should be noted that Gabe spent Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night exposed with little gear before being rescued. *(from Mt Rainier Climbing - Mike Gauthier)*

Deputy James William McMeins February 25, 1952 - April 21, 2006



Deputy James William McMeins, of Carnation passed away at home on Friday, April 21st, 2006. Jim was 54 years old and was born on February 25, 1952 in Seattle, Washington and was raised in Seattle and Duvall. On October 16, 1971, he married Mary Lou German in Carnation. That same year he entered in the United States Navy and served in Vietnam. Upon his discharge in 1975 he and his wife started a family in Carnation. In 1978, Deputy McMeins began his tenure with the King County Sheriff Department and served out of the North Bend Station, the Marine Unit and later at the Special Operations base at Boeing Field. Deputy McMeins was also involved with King County Search and Rescue. Deputy McMeins was the incident commander at a rescue on April 15th at Mt Si in which SMR participated. In his leisure time he enjoyed snow skiing, scuba diving, and playing games on his com-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

puter. His family will remember him as a loving, generous, and compassionate, husband, father, brother and friend. A memorial service was held on May 3, 2006 at the Timberlake Christian Fellowship in Redmond.

**Clay James Gatchel, Senior
09/25/19 - 12/03/05**



A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2006 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at Longmire in MRNP. Clay was a long-time member of the MRC and used to take standby duty with the old truck and is survived by his wife Dixie. Clay passed away on Dec 3 to that happy trail in the heavens following a bicycle accident that left him quadriplegic with dire consequences.

- Dave Shema

INTRODUCING THADD

Thadd Boucher was voted in as a Full Rescue member of SMR at the March Board Meeting and has been asked to introduce himself to the Unit:



I am from Colorado, lived in Denver, Colorado Springs, and various small mountain towns. I have been climbing in the Rockies since I was 12 and figured my experience could be used to help others in need. I joined El Paso County SAR for two years before my travels took me to the northwest, where I hope to stay for a while. I am looking forward to a nice summer of Cascade climb-

ing and also working with the people on this mountain rescue team.

Thadd

INTRODUCING BARRY



Another one of our newest Rescue Members **Barry Wark** is shown above demonstrating his rope ascending skills at the RFR-2006 last month at the Bellevue Fire Training Center. Barry moved here about a year ago from Utah where he was with the Ski Patrol at Park City and is studying biology at the UW. Great to have him with us in Seattle.

*Heard Around
The Campfire*



David Simpson got married in April to UW Assistant Professor Dr. Maritza Rivera-Gaxiola. The wedding was held at the Polyforum Siqueiros in Mexico City and featured a large dance band that played all night and end up with mariachi band playing until the early morning. Dave now lives happily in married bliss with his lovely wife and 9 year old step-daughter



FROM THE CHAIRMAN -

Speaking of training, again...as I'm sure you've all heard by now, if the County wants to continue to receive Federal funds, of any kind, then all (that's ALL) of the Search and Rescue volunteers that they use (that includes us) must take and pass two Federal-level Incident Command System trainings: IS-100, Introduction to the Incident Command System and IS-700, National Incident Management System, an Introduction. All personnel must successfully complete these two trainings by 30 Sep 2006. If you don't do so by that date then your Emergency Worker card will be revoked until you do.

Both trainings are offered online, and can be accessed at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>. There are instructions thereon how to access the trainings, how to take them, etc.

Just to let you know, I signed on and took the IS-100 training. I didn't study or prepare in any special way. I just went right in and took the test. And I passed. I don't know exactly what my score was since they don't tell you that. They just let you know whether you passed or failed. So I could've aced it, or I could've squeaked by. I don't know.

The message here, actually there are a couple and I'll confine myself to the "team player" message, is that these trainings (at least the IS-100 training) doesn't appear to be difficult, onerous, or a pain in the you know what, or anything like that. And it didn't take long. From the time that I logged on, read the instructions, got to the test, took it, etc. was only about ½

hour. No big thing.

So as much as we seem to be increasingly bogged down by training requirements this one (these two) don't appear present a difficult hurdle, or much of a hurdle at all. I'll let you know how I do with IS-700.

P.S. Once you take the test and receive the email that says you passed it then forward that email to KCSO Deputy Ron Ryals (ron.ryals@metrokc.gov) so that he has it for his records.

Timmy Williams, Chairman

TRAINING

Active members will be notified of any meetings, trainings and other important events on the unit pagers as well as the Seattle Mountain Rescue Yahoo Lister at <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/SeattleMtnRescue/>

SEATTLE MOUNTAIN RESCUE

**PO Box 67
Seattle, WA 98111**



SMR Information Line: (206) 270-7272
Website: www.seattlemountainrescue.org
Newsletter: SMRNewsletter@gmail.com

Seattle Mountain Rescue is a fully-accredited

Member of the Mountain Rescue Association and the King County Search and Rescue Association