

Number
188

Bergtrage

SEATTLE MOUNTAIN RESCUE



60+ 1948
2008

April 2009

APRIL BOARD MEETING/GENERAL MEETING

Board Meeting / General Meeting

April 16th, 2009 (Thursday) at 7:00pm

Bellevue Fire Station #9, 12412 SE 69th Way (Newcastle Way), Bellevue

This is SMR's regular monthly meeting which is not just for the **Board Members** who are required to attend. **All members** are asked to please attend and help **SMR** conduct its business. New members are encouraged to attend a meeting as soon as they are accepted in the Unit. Meetings are usually preceded by a social hour at 6:00 p.m. Locations will be announced on the **Yahoo Group E-mail Lister** and on your pagers. Please come, especially if you are a new or prospective member. Submit agenda items to **Chairman Doug Hutton** prior to the meeting.

MISSIONS IN MARCH 2009

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH, 2009: INJURED HIKER ON MT SI TRAIL, NORTH BEND



While coming down the Mt Si trail in the afternoon, a 63-year old lady slipped on a patch of ice and over-extended her left knee. She did have earlier knee problems and said that she "*blew out the knee*" which

"*flopped from side-to-side.*" After she put her knee brace on she was able continue slowly hiking down.

Other hikers offered to call for help and both the lady and her husband refused, however some concerned hikers did call "911" which activated SAR. Bill was hiking on Tiger Mtn and responded and met the lady about 12 minutes up the trail at the half-mile sign and together with Aaron Zabriskie assisted the injured lady down to the trailhead where her husband drove her to Swedish Hospital. Besides SMR, members of ESAR and 4x4 also responded with a total of about 10-12 volunteers.

SMR's roster showed 6 members responding for 10.5 hours and 175 driving miles.

OTHER SAR, OR NOT QUITE SAR, ACTIVITIES

Lost Hikers on Rattlesnake Ridge.....During SMR's monthly meeting on March 19th the pagers went off for three hikers who were "*lost on some unidentified road on Rattlesnake Ridge*" and a couple of "*hybrids*" from SMR/ESAR responded for ESAR. After a little more than an hour there was a page that the "*lost*" hikers were found..... **Missing Dog in Alpentel Backcountry.....**On Monday, March 16th an award-winning show dog went missing in the Alpentel Ski Area back country at Snoqualmie Pass after "opening a door" at a condominium. This made national and local news on TV, possibly because the dog was a family dog of the late Sen. Dick Hemstad. This never evolved into a SAR search fortunately and it was

later heard at the Pass that the dog wandered home or was found the next day. A missing show dog seems to be more of interest to the news media than a missing person!



From the Rescue Chair....we have had five missions for the first quarter of 2009, compared with seven in 2008, with a total of 119.75 volunteer hours and 1,730 driving miles. For detailed Mission Reports members may log on the "Members Only" part of the website <http://seattlemountainrescue.org>

1959



June 26 - 28, 2009
Timberline Lodge, Mount Hood



2009



A founding member of the
Mountain Rescue Association



NEWSLETTER - April 1959 - FROM MRC CHAIRMAN DORRELL LOOFF

It is our responsibility (and privilege) to attend the annual conference being held this spring at Mt. Hood. I realize that this will be a long trip....but it is the one time during the year when we have the opportunity to meet and work together....to exchange ideas and to develop and demonstrate new techniques. It is just as important for the "old-time" members of Mountain Rescue to attend as it is for the newest members to attend for it is necessary for the old timers to train the younger men.

During the conference, the different units will vote on the constitution and by laws for a national mountain rescue organization. In line with the proposed national group, our MRC group would be elevated to a statewide organization. This in turn would mean that the local group here in Seattle would become know as the Seattle Unit of MRC.

Remember --- when we go to Mt. Hood we will be completely prepared with all of our emergency equipment. Accidents don't care whether we are

attending a conference or not. We must be prepared at all times. I know the Oregon men will put on a good conference in the big Timberline Lodge, reserved for the whole weekend, and I urge every one of you to make plans to attend.

Dick Pooley of MoReSCO, Portland, is the conference chairman. Training and refresher training will be given in both rock and glacier work. The specialized tramway equipment from Hood River will be demonstrated. Fixed wing aircraft and helicopter demonstrations are also scheduled. There will be a commercial exhibit of the latest in communications and safety equipment.

Timberline Lodge has been reserved for the entire weekend. A package plan is being offered. It includes registration, Saturday supper, overnight lodging and Sunday breakfast. Total cost is \$6.50. For those not staying at the lodge, a \$1.50 Registration fee will be collected. Camping space is available.

The 1959 SPRING TRAINING CONFERENCE - NEWSLETTER - October 6, 1959

The 1959 SPRING TRAINING CONFERENCE, held at Timberline Lodge, Oregon, was an outstanding success. Not only well over 400 people attended but it was also the best planned and run conference to date. A terrific amount of work went into this conference and Oregon is certainly to be congratulated. I hope that future conferences will not be followed by actual rescues, planned or otherwise. It was interesting to note that **177 from Washington attended**, which does not include 50 Seattle Explorer Scouts; six came from California, one from Montana and one from Alberta, Canada. Oregon, of course, had a wonderful showing with 158. This is a record to shoot for next year. Washington will have to get on the ball to equal it.

The highlight of the conference was the creation of the **Mountain Rescue Association**. While it is still an infant, it will grow and become a dream realized if we will put forth the effort and keep it going. What it is and what it will become depends on what we put into it. It is important that we are no longer a scattered group of organizations unable to join together to help each other. State and national rescue organizations now have an organization to meet all the representatives from the Mountain Rescue units instead of having to do business with each unit individually. It is fitting that Dick Pooley was elected at the first president. He is a good man who will do a good job. We are lucky that John Arens was elected secretary-treasurer. Dorrell Loeff was elected vice-president.



The lodge was constructed between 1936 and 1938 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project during the Great Depression. Workers used large timbers and local stone, and placed intricately carved decorative elements throughout the building. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Lodge on September 28, 1937





Hey SMR,

Just letting y'all know that I wrote a book - Pickets and Dead Men - about doing SAR as a climbing ranger at Mt. Rainier NP.

Though, King County gets more than one mention in it because I learned everything I know about how to do rescues the right way from you guys, and would just like to say that there are no better folks to work with in a crisis. As evidenced in the book.

Pickets And Dead Men will be in bookstores everywhere starting in April, but it's out now on Barnesandnoble.com and Amazon.com: [Pickets and Dead Men](#), by Bree Loewen. Mountaineers Books, 2009.

In case you want to see the sweet (and slightly gory) talk and accompanying slideshow and you want your book signed (because you KNOW it's going to be worth something someday) here's a partial list of my author events. Enjoy! *Bree Loewen*

- April 22nd 7:00 Third Place Books, Ravenna
6504 20th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115
- April 30th 7:00 WWU Outdoor Club
Western Washington University
516 High Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
- May 7th 7:00 Feathered Friends
119 Yale Ave. North
Seattle, WA 98109
- May 14 7:00 Mountaineers Clubhouse
7700 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115
- May 19 6:30 Ballard Public Library
5614 22nd Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98107

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Happy spring everyone! Don't know about the rest of you but I'm certainly glad that spring is finally here. Looking forward to those longer hours of daylight that better enable the after work excursions to the local hills. With spring comes that time where many of us start to gather informally and formally to hone those skills necessary to go out and perform rescues. Our annual RfR is this weekend, followed by the minimally intrusive SAR Academy activities.

Sorry to say that I won't be present at RfR this year as I will be taking spring break with my family in Cabo San Lucas. I plan on at least one day trying to find some local crag to hang out in the 80 + degree weather. If like me you can't make it to RfR or feel like any extra practice is in order, don't forget that ESAR has invited us along to their Rigging Series. Steve Allen has the details on that.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that one of our long time members and contributors, Bill Lahr, left us a generous donation out of his estate at his passing. Bill and Dorothy Lahr had no children, so there really is no one

specifically for us to extend our gratitude to. However, in the memory of both Bill and Dorothy their legacy of contribution to the unit will be carried on by many outstanding people. Thank you for all that you do and I guess the next time we see each other may be the April Board meeting or the Banquet.

Another time honored tradition of spring is the annual MRA Spring Conference. This year is the 50th anniversary of the MRA and it will be held where the MRA was born (hatched?); Timberline Lodge at Mt. Hood. We have reserved a lodge in Rhododendron, about 15 miles or so from Timberline. SMR is picking up half the tab for the lodging and there is room for ~14, not counting bivying on the porch. The lodge can be seen at this URL: <http://www.mthoodrent.com/proppages/rockinrhody.html> Please consider coming down. The price is pretty steep, but there are usually some interesting presentations, exercises and other fun activities. Registration info can be found at the PMRU website.

Doug Hutton, Chairman of the Board

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Meet Brianna Hartzell -Our Newest Member



Congratulations and welcome to our latest new member approved by the Board at the February 19, 2009 meeting: **Brianna Hartzell** Brianna is no stranger to Seattle Mountain Rescue and has been with us on missions for several years as an ESAR member. So all you young guys now have a reason to make it to this year's Rigging for Rescue next weekend!



TRAINING - RIGGING FOR RESCUE

Don't forget: Rigging for Rescue is this coming week! Friday night, April 3rd, 6:30 – 9 pm and Saturday and Sunday April 4th and 5th from 8:00a – 5:00p. New members are required to come to RfR and everybody else needs to make at least one of these shindigs every three years. Don't forget to bring a harness, chest harness (or webbing to make one), gloves, helmet, rope ascending equipment (prusiks are recommended),



Personal anchor, radio if you've got one, and a brown bag lunch for Saturday (pizza is provided on Sunday). RfR is at the **Bellevue Public Safety Training Center**, 1838 116th Ave NE Bellevue, WA 98004

For map and directions:
http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/images/Fire/Map_to_TC.pdf

See everybody there!
Bree Loewen, Training Chair
Q's? Call (206) 919-6240

MAY 15 - 16 - 17, 2009

2009 Washington State
SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE



Welcome to Lewis County and the home of the **2009 Washington State Search and Rescue Conference**. This is our fourth conference, and we know you will enjoy your time here in Lewis County. The conference is at Dragon's Sphere Park which is a primitive 300 acre site that is surrounded by the Cowlitz River, forest lands and stunning mountain views, and is five miles from the nearest neighbor. This year's conference will specialize in **HANDS ON**

training for all disciplines. We have asked our instructors to provide both lecture and hands on demonstrations where attendees can practice what they teach. We will have special activities throughout the event; including a Friday night social, Saturday night surprise demonstration, and yes we are bringing back the Saturday night parade. Attendees are encouraged to display their equipment as well as decorate their camp. Best camp display and unit spirit will receive special recognition. Come join us again for an experience of a lifetime!

- Chief Deputy Gene Seiber

Web: <http://www.wasar2009.com/>

MOUNTAIN RESCUE INTERNATIONAL

In Thin Air of the Alps, Swiss Secrecy Is Vanishing...Baby it's cold outside!!! Just when you think you've seen it all along comes something like this !!!!! The Swiss like their secrecy, particularly in banking. At other times, they are more open. Take hiking. Even though there are no laws at this time prohibiting hiking in the nude, the conservative Swiss in Appenzell want to change that. We haven't heard from our Swiss Rescue Friends yet?



March 27th...the Eiger claims two more victims. Rescue workers have retrieved the body of one of two mountain climbers who froze to death on the Eiger this week after being trapped by a storm. It was the first tragedy this year on the 3,970 meter high Eiger – a mountain regarded as one of Switzerland's most dangerous and whose name, some people think, means "ogre". Both climbers were recruits on vacation from the Swiss army's mountain training centre based in Andermatt. By all accounts they were experienced and well prepared. They had almost certainly reached the summit before becoming trapped.

Story in English: http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/swiss_news/Eiger_claims_two_more_victims.html?siteSect=201&sid=10502891&cKey=1238403355000&ty=st



On March 22nd, **Stephen Jenewein**, a rescuer and trainer for over 20 years with the **Seefeld Bergrettung** died in an avalanche while skiing near Seefeld where he lived.

Stan Engle: 1921-2009
 Stanley Russell Engle died Monday, March 23, in Tacoma at the age of 87. In the 1960s, Stan was also involved with the fledgling nonprofit, Tacoma Mountain Rescue Unit. In the late '60s Stan was among the 68th party to climb Denali, when mountaineering gear was utterly basic and fewer than 30 people typically reached the summit in an average year.



SEATTLE MOUNTAIN RESCUE

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Website: <http://seattlemountainrescue.org/>
Newsletter: Bergtrage@gmail.com



Seattle Mountain Rescue is a fully-accredited Member of the Mountain Rescue Association and the King County Search and Rescue Association. Seattle Mountain Rescue is a non-profit 501c(3) organization dedicated to saving lives through rescue and education. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to our organization, please send a check made out to "Seattle Mountain Rescue" to:

Seattle Mountain Rescue
 P.O. Box 67
 Seattle WA 98111-0067

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The Editor