

Number 222

# SEATTLE MOUNTAIN RESCUE

## Bergtrage



60+ 1948  
2011

## February 2012



### MISSIONS IN JANUARY 2012

#### JANUARY 4, 2012: MISSING AUTISTIC YOUTH (NO SMR RESPONSE)

King County paged out SAR at 11:13am to search for a "non-functioning 15 year old autistic male walk-away missing from Evergreen High School for two hours. At 3:38pm the missing Subject was located alive and well. There were no SMR responders for this search.

#### JANUARY 15, 2012: STRANDED HIKER ON MAILBOX PEAK

King County sent out a page at 5:58pm for a hasty team to assist a stranded 32-year old female hiker on the Mailbox Peak trail. Keith Schultz was Intown Coordinator. Davis just happened to be nearby on the Middle Fork Road and got to the trailhead at 6:10pm. Before anyone else responded the lady walked out on her own and a turnaround page was issued while Nathan Greenland was still enroute. The three SMR members had 3.5 man-hours and 22 driving-miles.

#### JANUARY 16, 2012: HANSON RIDGE - STRANDED 4X4

KCSO paged 4x4 SAR at 07:11am for two males stranded overnight in a 4x4 on Hanson Ridge Road near Exit 47 off I-90. Initially 4x4 did not think they could reach the Subjects but subsequently chained-up a vehicle and started an attempt. Kieth Schultz was Intown and Hangartner and Stone responded with SMR's snowmobiles, towed by Hangartner's vehicle because SMR-2 was on a mission at Paradise. As they arrived at base, 4x4 made contact with the Subjects at the top of Hanson Creek Rd at the gate to the Cedar River Watershed, and returned them to base in good condition. The three SMR responders had 23 man-hours and 190 driving-miles. Link to map:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/photo/JqxDhNYfo2zgsR4ScBEZ9MTjNZETYmyPJy0liipFm0?feat=directlink>

#### JANUARY 15 - 16, 2012: SEARCH FOR MISSING SNOWSHOER ON MUIR SNOWFIELD

King County paged out SAR on Saturday at 7:16pm to assist Pierce County SAR searching for a snowshoer missing in the Paradise area on Mt. Rainier. The 66-year-old man disappeared Saturday while leading a group on a snowshoe hike. He was leading hikers in the Paradise region of Mount Rainier National Park when he slipped down a steep slope. Instead of climbing back up to rejoin the group, he continued on to meet the group further down the trail. When he did not arrive 30 minutes after he radioed the group to tell them he was on his way, the Park Service launched a search.

Tacoma MR was in the field searching all day Saturday and additional searchers were requested for Sunday. Russell, Bree, Rich E. Steve A., and Drew E. were in the field Sunday. According to the media, there were up to 50 rescuers in the field searching the Paradise area between Panorama Point, Mildred Ridge and Reflection Lakes. There was no sign of the missing Subject, but the search was expanded and focused on Steven's Creek drainage Monday with avalanche certified teams of three on skis. On Monday, there was a very large turnout -

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

over 90 people including every MRA unit in the state and a large contingent from Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol. A member of the Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol found the missing man in a tree well in Stevens Canyon. He was about a mile from where he was last seen when he was found Monday by a ranger and two Crystal Mount Ski Patrol members. The man had defied the odds and survived two nights in blizzard conditions with minimal gear and was found just hours before searchers planned to scale back the hunt. When rescuers found him two days later, not only was he alert and ambulatory, but he was dry and hungry. He was in such good shape that when he was found, he did not have to go to a hospital and instead went home with his family. After rescuers reached the Subject it took nine hours to bring him from the rugged terrain covered in deep snow to the Paradise visitors' center.



Olympic Mountain Rescue volunteers Josh Vaughn (left) of Hansville and Peter Ozimek of Silverdale during the rescue of the snowshoer.

With temperatures in the teens and winds whipping on the mountain, the snowshoer said he kept walking and moving to stay warm. He took cover in several tree wells — depressions in snow that forms around a tree — and slept standing for 5 to 10 minutes at a time. He initially made a shelter near a big rock and tried to stay warm. He tried to keep walking, but at times "the snow was so deep, I couldn't breathe." He dreamed of his wife and a nice hot sauna. He talked to himself. He took pictures. He prayed to God. He worried his family and friends would worry about him. He made a fire, drank hot water and ate rice, some Korean food and a chocolate bar. And even as he burned his personal items to stay warm, the last \$6 going up in flames Sunday night, he said: "I worried because it's a national park. You're not supposed to have a fire. ... I'm worried about that but I want to (stay) alive." Money made for the best fire, he said, laughing. Nylon socks and packaging, not so great.

SMR did not find missing snowshoer, but scooped a "bonus" rescue: two lost snowshoers holed up in a snow cave since Saturday. This did not have a reservation for rescue, but our gracious SMR team was able to accommodate them. Bree, Nathan, Geoff, and Drew Fletcher were at Paradise. Ryan C., Matt W. and Joe W. were part of the evacuation team for the original rescue subject, who apparently was not as ambulatory as first reported.

For the two days SMR had 18 members involved for 293.75 man-hours and 1093 driving-miles.

Read more at:

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/travel/mount-rainier-park-official-missing-snowshoer-rescued-from-snowy-backcountry-in-good-shape/2012/01/17/qIQAZ6Vt4P\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/travel/mount-rainier-park-official-missing-snowshoer-rescued-from-snowy-backcountry-in-good-shape/2012/01/17/qIQAZ6Vt4P_story.html)

### JANUARY 18-19-20, 2012: SEARCH FOR TWO MISSING PARTIES ON THE MUIR SNOWFIELD - MT RAINIER

On Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, SMR was called down to Mt. Rainier to assist in a search for two missing climbers and two missing hikers on the Muir Snowfield. A hasty ski team was requested to search the snowfield and Camp Muir. Lurie, Cross, Loewen and Anschell responded from SMR in SMR-2, along with Oyvind and Zulinke from EMRU. SMR-2 left Issaquah at 8:00pm and proceeded in wintery road conditions down to Longmire, where park housing was left open for them. On Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 07:00am, one Mt. Rainier Climbing Ranger, two International Mountain Guides (IMG), and an NPS Wildlife Biologist joined the team which the national media described as an "elite mountain rescue team." The team of 10 started skiing at 08:30am and proceeded to Camp Muir through wintery conditions, arriving at 1:00pm, where it was determined that no one was there. There was some potential for a weather window the following morning, January 20<sup>th</sup>, so the Climbing Ranger and one IMG guide volunteered to stay at Muir on standby in case conditions improved and a helicopter was able to visually search the snowfield and found evidence of the missing climbers and hikers while all Mountain Rescue teams headed home. A helicopter remained on standby at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, but freezing rain kept it grounded Thursday. A final report with SMR's total persons, man-hours, and driving-miles is not available at this time.

Read more here:

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/elite-team-searches-missing-mt-rainier-15396972#.TyXUZ4Hefyo>

**SMR's Party Has Been Rescheduled: The party in January was cancelled due to inclement weather and is now scheduled to take place on Monday, February 27, same time and place (see announcement in this newsletter.**

**IN MEMORIAM - RUTH TROTT 1923-2012**

In memory of...

*Ruth Trott...*

In the hearts of...



Ruth Trott, widow of MRC founding member Dr. Otto Trott, passed away on January 1st. Ruth was 88 years old and was preceded in death by her husband Dr. Otto T. Trott - one of the three founders of what became the internationally recognized Mountain Rescue Association. A memorial will be held February 11th at the University of Washington Arboretum visitor center from 1 to 4 pm. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the U of W Arboretum Foundation and/or the Audubon society.

**CHAIRMANS CORNER**



**GARY YNGVE**

At the January board meeting, the board elected me Chairman of Seattle Mountain Rescue. I have been with the unit for nearly seven years and have been continually impressed with the unit's professionalism and self-organization. Now as the man behind the curtain, it is my job to ensure that we can provide the best mountain rescue capability that we can, foster a sustainable volunteerism within our unit, encourage camaraderie, and perpetuate mountain rescue's traditions.

When we read about a successful mission in the news, they may mention the number of rescuers who participated. While that number does reflect our volunteer contribution, it is just the tip of the iceberg. We are indebted to our many committee chairs, who plan trainings, maintain vehicles, rescue equipment, and radios, review our safety and techniques, recruit and screen new members, write newsletters, fundraise, and more. My job is to make it easier for you to do your job. I will be in touch with each of you over the next year on how I can help, and please do not hesitate to contact me.

I also want to maintain and grow our relationships with other units, KCSO, MRNP, etc. We all work together under ICS on a mission, and we will need to work together to make sure that policies that affect SAR volunteers and SAR organizations incorporate our concerns as stakeholders. KCSO will be appointing a new SAR Coordinator. WMRA is in the second year of a new peer-review process for unit accreditation. KCSARA is reinventing itself. By being active participants, we can steer the change so it is good for us.

Anyway, a little about myself: I grew up in Miami, Florida, a place where the most elevation was an overpass, but my parents took me to the Smoky Mountains many times, even before I could walk. The photo is me as a little kid at Alum Cave Bluffs. My favorite hike was Chimney Tops, especially the final scramble. We moved to Atlanta when I was 10, and I took my first rock climbing class at some local bluffs when I was in high school. I came out to Washington for graduate school and sometimes found myself more passionate about the mountains than about my research. I did eventually summit Mt. PhD after a few unplanned bivies. Now I am an upstanding citizen with a 9-5 job and have recently learned to drive a stick shift. I suppose now that mortgage, kids, and old age are inevitable. *Gary*



**WOLF BAUER – “THE CATALYST WHO BROUGHT ORGANIZED RESCUE TO THE NORTHWEST.”**



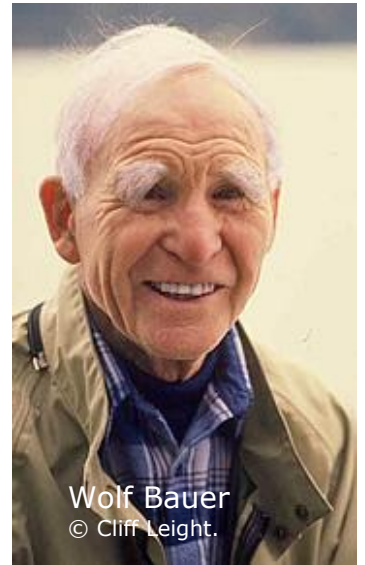
In 1973, at the annual banquet which celebrated the 25th anniversary of the organization of the MRC, **Wolf Bauer** was inducted in as an Honorary Member. Wolf was responsible for the establishment of The Mountaineers climbing course and stimulated the change from the traditional hip-pocket call list of rescue volunteers to the organized approach of the MRC with funding, centralized equipment, communications and a relationship with legally responsible agencies. On February 24th, Wolf will be celebrating his 100th birthday!



(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Wolf Bauer was born in Bavaria on February 24, 1912, the eldest of five children of Hubert and Elsbeth Bauer. Due to hard economic times, the Bauer family left Germany in 1925. Wolf's father initially wanted to settle in New Zealand, but their visit to family relatives in Seattle turned into a permanent stay. Wolf was introduced to the Northwest outdoors around 1927 by Harry Higman, scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 145 in Seattle. Wolf attended the University of Washington from 1931 through 1936. He attained a degree in ceramic engineering. After working for various employers in this field he established his own world-wide consulting business.



Wolf Bauer  
© Cliff Leight.

Wolf was known for his pioneering climbs in the Cascades and creation of the Mountaineers climbing course in 1935-36. In his work as a ceramic engineering consultant, Wolf often traveled to Europe. In 1948, after visiting a client in Holland, Wolf spent time in Bavaria, where he learned about the Bergwacht ("mountain watch"), a volunteer rescue group much like the National Ski Patrol in the United States. Wolf obtained a film of the Bergwacht in action and some books about their methods. He realized that, as in skiing and climbing in the 1930s, Europe was ahead of the U.S. in rescue techniques and organization.

Wolf concluded that a similar organization was needed in the Northwest. In 1948, he approached The Mountaineers, Washington Alpine Club and National Ski Patrol to sponsor the new organization. He brought in the State Patrol, Coast Guard, Forest Service and other government agencies to participate. Originally called the Mountain Rescue and Safety Council (reflecting an emphasis on education as well as accident response), the name was eventually shortened to the Mountain Rescue Council. Wolf organized annual conferences, the first at The Mountaineers clubhouse in Seattle and the second, in 1949, at Snoqualmie Pass. These conferences built support for the cooperative concept and shared ideas. At the Snoqualmie Pass conference, the Coast Guard brought an early helicopter and the climbers showed agency representatives what they could do.

Wolf served as chairman of the Mountain Rescue Council for its first six years. Ome Daiber became the public face of mountain rescue, featured in a 1953 Saturday Evening Post article as "The Man Who Rescues Mountain Climbers." Dr. Otto Trott, an expert mountaineer born in Berlin and a National Ski Patrol pioneer, served as the council's medical expert. Together, these three men founded a system that was the first of its kind in the United States. In 1959, the national Mountain Rescue Association was formed, largely through the work of Seattle council members.

**The Chairman, Officers and Members of Seattle Mountain Rescue wish our Founder and First Chairman Wolf Bauer a very happy and joyous 100th Birthday!**



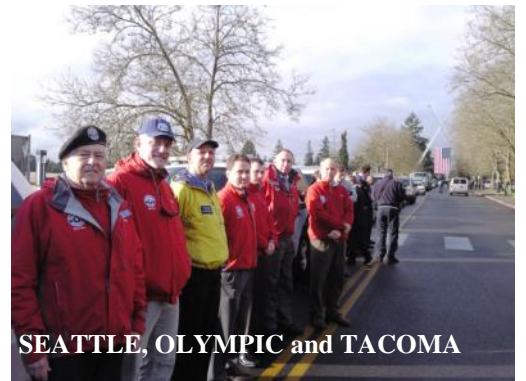
**NPS RANGER MARGARET ANDERSON MEMORIAL**



A memorial service was held on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, for Margaret Anderson, the National Park Service ranger gunned down on New Year's Day by Benjamin Barnes. Family and friends, federal officials, fellow rangers, law enforcement officers and thousands of well-wishers packed an auditorium at Pacific Lutheran University to celebrate Anderson's life. Among the thousands of emergency responders standing tall as the the honor guard came to attention

when the hearse arrived were eight uniformed members of Seattle, Olympic and Tacoma Mountain Rescue. The vehicles from Seattle, Tacoma and Olympic were also in the procession and can be seen on this YouTube Video:

<http://youtu.be/tVe6KhYts8c>



SEATTLE, OLYMPIC and TACOMA

**"HEARD AROUND THE CAMP FIRE"**



By special request for Al Errington, this photo of an "unidentified" member of SMR is included here without comment! Its anyone's guess who the mystery redhead is!

Bree posted this photo on Facebook showing a variety of colors for plastic boots on the Rainier searches last month.



places and posted this on his Facebook. He also posted this picture!

Our relentless "globe trotter" Doug Pierson apparently spent some time in Moscow last month, among who knows how many other



**PARTY HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED**

SMR Winter Party Rescheduled!!! New date: Monday, Feb 27 6:00 - 9:00. And don't worry - the beer stayed cold during the snow and subsequent ice storm even though the party got postponed.

**Here's the address:** Kidz Bounce. 8178 304th Avenue Southeast. Issaquah, WA 98027-8889 Note that maybe it is technically in Issaquah, but you need to go to Preston to find it.

**Dinner, drink, friends provided.**

Call Bree Loewen (206) 919 6240 or email her: [breeoewen@gmail.com](mailto:breeoewen@gmail.com) by 2/20 if at all possible so she can get a head-count for food planning.



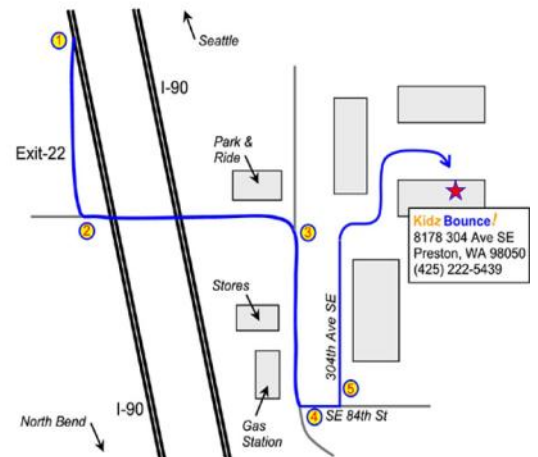
Driving Directions

- ① from I-90, take Exit-22 (Fall City Preston Exit)
- ② turn left at the top of the off-ramp (right if from North Bend)
- ③ turn right at the yield sign
- ④ turn left on SE 84th street
- ⑤ turn left on 304 Ave SE
- ★ Kidz Bounce! is to the left of Gymnastics East



**P.O. Box 67**  
**SEATTLE, WA 98111-0067**  
**SMR INFORMATION LINE: (206) 270-7272**  
**WEBSITE: [HTTP://SEATELMTAINRESCUE.ORG](http://seattlemountainrescue.org)**  
**NEWSLETTER: [BERGTRAGE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BERGTRAGE@GMAIL.COM)**

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**THE BERGTRAGE IS SEATTLE MOUNTAIN RESCUE'S MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AND HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN ONE FORM OR THE OTHER SINCE THE FIRST MOUNTAIN RESCUE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER WAS PUBLISHED IN 1955. IT IS SENT ELECTRONICALLY TO ALL SMR MEMBERS AND TO A LARGE NUMBER OF DONORS, FRIENDS, OTHER RESCUE UNITS AND PUBLIC AGENCIES INVOLVED IN SEARCH AND RESCUE AND IS ALSO SENT TO A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS. THE EDITOR WELCOMES ANY AND ALL COMMENTS, STORIES AND PHOTOS AND CAN BE CONTACTED AT [BERGTRAGE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BERGTRAGE@GMAIL.COM).**

TRAINING CALENDAR FOR THE REST OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH

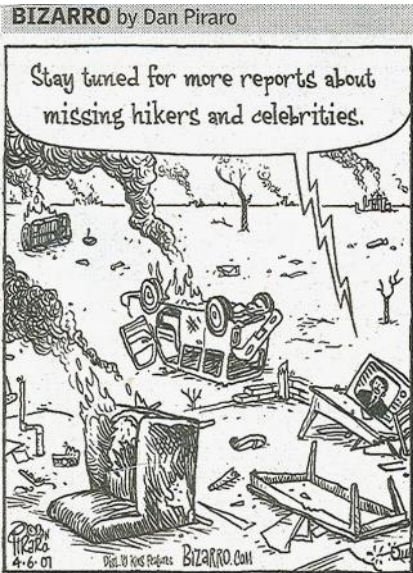
**FEBRUARY**

- **4 Feb (Sat)** Avalanche Class Level 2 Day 1
- **5 Feb (Sun)** Avalanche Class Level 2 Day 2
- **11 Feb (Sat)** Avalanche Class Level 2 Day 3
- **12 Feb (Sun)** Avalanche Class Level 2 Day 4
- **16 Feb (Thurs 7-9)** Board Meeting
- **18 Feb (Sat)** Snowmobile Training
- **25 Feb (Sat)** Avalanche practice – Scenario day #1
- **26 Feb (Sun)** EMRU Snow Training (SMR Invited)

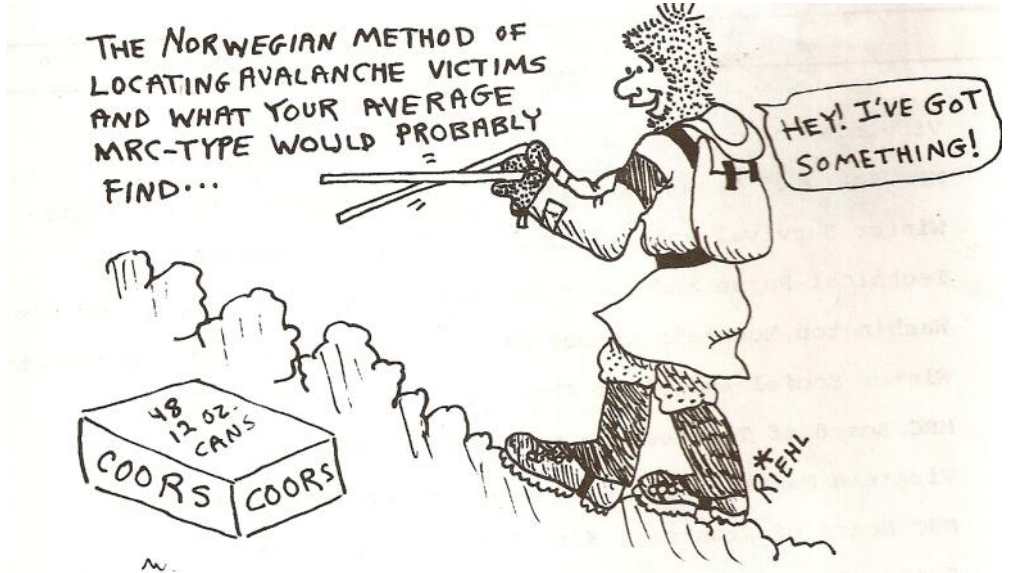
**Bree Loewen, Training Chair**  
[bree@loewen.com](mailto:bree@loewen.com)

**MARCH**

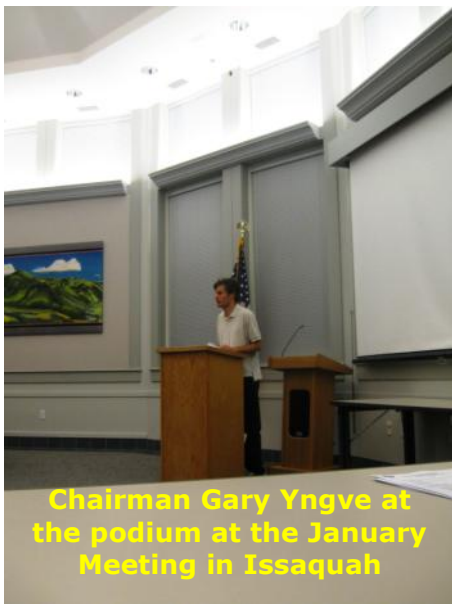
- **3 March (Sat)** ESAR Course III (invitation for search training)
- **4 March (Sun)** ESAR Course III (invitation for search training)
- **6 March (Tues PM)** Rigging Theory with Gordy
- **15 March (Thurs 7-9)** Board Meeting
- **17 March (Sat)** Avalanche practice – Scenario day #2
- **23 March (Fri)** Rigging For Rescue Day 1
- **24 March (Sat)** Rigging For Rescue Day 2
- **25 March (Sun)** Rigging For Rescue Day 3



About what you would expect from the media!



Everyone has seen this one before but with all the avalanche training scheduled next month its time again!



**Chairman Gary Yngve at the podium at the January Meeting in Issaquah**



Right Photo: Art Farash, Timmy Williams and Bill Rengstorf with SMR-2 at the Ranger Anderson Memorial in Lakewood

Left Photo: Olympic Mountain Rescue showing their truck to Bill Rengstorf at the Ranger Anderson Memorial in Lakewood.

