




THE RESCUE RUCKSACK

TACOMA MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT
P.O. BOX 696 TACOMA, WA 98401

NEWSLETTER JUNE 1982

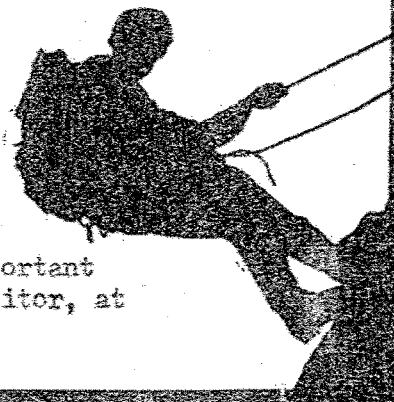
ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- June 5 (Sat)  TACOMA SOUND-TO-NARROWS RUN. The Fun Run starts at 10:15 a.m. at the Vassault Playfield. The TMRU will have an 8- to 10-man team running with a wheeled rescue litter for the 7.6-mile course. Come out and cheer your team, and also discover who the mystery "victim" will be!
- June 9 (Wed) TMRU MONTHLY UNIT MEETING. This month's meeting will be held at the DES headquarters, on Martin Way, in Olympia (next to Wash Hwy Patrol) at 7:30 p.m. Car-poolers from Tacoma will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the parking lot where Fred Meyers used to be on South Tacoma Way. Try to attend - only 7 members came to the May meeting!
- June 19 (Sat) TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING. The training originally scheduled for May 15 has been rescheduled for June 19th. Training will be at Cushman Cliffs on Lake Cushman, and will include practice in the use of winches and manual pulley systems. Car poolers from Tacoma will meet at Fred Meyers parking lot on South Tacoma Way at 7:00 a.m. or 8:30 at the Hoodspout Ranger Station. Come equipped for rock climbing work.
- June 30 (Wed) TMRU MONTHLY BOARD MEETING. The board will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Rescue Cache.
- July 7 (Wed) KIT PARTY at Shorty Williams' house at 2905 W. Parkway, University Place. Come out and help put some kits together. The Kit Party is held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Shorty's house.
- July 14 (Wed) TMRU MONTHLY UNIT MEETING, time and location to be announced in July RUCKSACK. The regular unit meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

BOARD BRIEFS

The April Board Meeting was held on April 28 at the Rescue Cache with John Simac, Bill Weber, Lee Tegner, Joe Scarfo, and Bruce Martin present. Bill Weber and Bruce Martin gave reports on recent Call Outs. A motion was made and passed to purchase one 600-foot spool of Bluewater-Two 11mm rope and two sets of Jumar ascenders. Nominations were made and accepted for the appointment of Jeff Sharp as Equipment Chairman and Art Farash as Rucksack Editor. At the May 26th Board Meeting, Mr. Bruce Hunter, a member of Seattle Mountain Rescue and also an agent for the United Pacific Insurance Company, explained the unit's insurance coverages and the advantages of consolidating the various policies into one single package plan. Jeff Sharp gave a detailed report on the latest Call-Out on May 21 (See CALLOUTS) Bill Lokey regretfully announced his resignation as Safety Education Chairman after 6 years on the job, due to profession commitments. Bill Lokey proposed that he attend the National Association of Search & Rescue Convention on September 17-19 in Las Vegas as unit representative.

The Rescue Rucksack is published to keep members informed of important unit activities. For all input or articles, call Art Farash, Editor, at 535-5874 (home) or 967-3438 (work).



CALL-OUTS: APRIL 23 - Bruce Martin and Joe Scarfo were called out to assist in the search for a 16-year-old Tacoma boy who was last seen swimming in the Deschutes River on Thursday, April 22. The boy was believed to have been pulled under the surface by undercurrents and drowned. Bruce and Joe rappelled down the canyon walls and checked out a few possible locations. Bruce had to "prussik" back out, while Joe made good use of his Jumar ascenders. Both got wet in the process. The obvious advantages of the Jumars prompted Bruce to motion that the unit purchase two pairs. The search was called off by the Thurston County Sheriff to avoid further risk of life, and the boy was later found under the upper falls on May 24th.

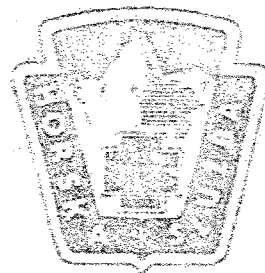
APRIL 28 - Bill Weber represented the TMRU as an observer at the scene of a search operation coordinated by the King County Sheriff. A small plane piloted by a Gig Harbor man disappeared from radar on Friday, April 23, and search operations were concentrated in the Greenwater and Mud Mountain areas to the east of Enumclaw. No assistance was requested from the TMRU, since the plane was presumed to have gone down in King County. The wreckage was finally discovered by a CAP pilot on Thursday, April 29, and was hidden at the 3,100-ft level of a 4000-ft ridge, located 13 miles East of Enumclaw.

MAY 21-22 - Two TMRU members assisted the Olympic Mountain Rescue in the recovery of two dead climbers from The Brothers. Jeff Sharp and Tim Hartman responded to a 2 a.m. call-out on Friday, May 21, and moved out from the Cache at 4:00 a.m. Shortly after 5:00 a.m. they met OMR personnel and formed an 11-man joint team which was later flown into the search area near Lena Lake by a Washington National Guard MAST Helicopter from Fort Lewis (HUEY). The team was flown to the search area where the bodies were found in a moat at the 5000-ft level. The two climbers were part of a three-man party which was descending The Brothers off-route. One climber lost his grip on a rock face and fell against another man, plunging both into a ravine. The third climber was uninjured and walked out for help at 11:00 p.m. The party was not roped up. The bodies were lowered by ropes to where they could be placed in litters, and were then carried out to the base camp at the trailhead, arriving at 1:00 a.m. on Saturday. Several problems were encountered with the litters, which can be corrected prior to future operations. Jeff and Tim returned late Saturday morning to Tacoma after a few hours sleep at the trailhead. Newspapers reported that one of the dead climbers was a climbing instructor, while the other two men were novices.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE AROUND THE WORLD

The Czechoslovak HORSKÁ SLUŽBA (Mountain Service) is a small organization of professional civil servants and volunteers who work mainly in the High Tatra (Vysoké Tatry) mountains of Slovakia. The Horská Služba is not only active in mountain rescue and safety education, but also constructs, marks, and maintains climbing trails, assists in conducting sporting events in the mountains, and enforces laws and regulations for the protection of the environment. The HORSKÁ SLUŽBA celebrated its 25th anniversary in January 1982.

Horská
služba



TMRU OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN: John Simac (759-6760)
 VICE CHAIRMAN: Bill Weber (472-5446)
 TREASURER: Bruce Martin (759-8899)
 SECRETARY PRO TEM: Helen Martin (759-8899)
 SAFETY EDUCATION: Vacant
 COMMUNICATIONS: Brian Miller (537-9569)
 RESCUES: Lee Tegner (474-5591)
 EQUIPMENT: Jeff Sharp