



*Everybody Comes Home from
The Backcountry*

2024 Annual Report
Bergtrage



Contents

Your Donations Make a Difference	3
Message from the Chair	4
2024 highlights:	4
Notable Missions.....	5
Annette Lake	5
Mason Lake.....	6
Talpus - Olallie Lake	7
Snow Lake	8
Technology	9
Drones	9
E-Bikes.....	10
MRA Lifesaving Award.....	11
Training.....	12
Professional Rigging Training	13
Education and Outreach.....	14
The Volunteers Film North Bend Premier.....	16
Austrian Mountain Rescue	17
Goodbye Big Blue	18
2024 Financials.....	19
Financial Partners	21
Look ahead to 2025	22
Parting Shot.....	24

Cover: Kyle Lemoire – Above: Deb McNally and Catherine Killien

Your Donations Make a Difference

Seattle Mountain Rescue is an **all-volunteer** organization of seasoned alpinists that give their time to achieve the vision that, "**Everybody comes home from the backcountry.**" SMR Members do this through training and mission response.

We cannot do this without **you** and your generous support of SMR. This year, your donations have:

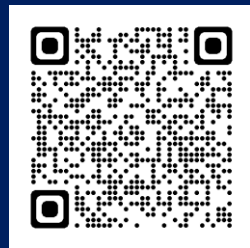
- Replaced rescue ropes
- Provided medical supplies and training
- Provided rigging training
- Provided Mountain Safety Education
- Provided Critical Stress and Mental Health Training
- Ensured our truck is always response ready

[Donate](#) today!



SMR members Tim Halder and Michelle Howden

Donate Here



Seattle Mountain Rescue is registered as a 501 (c)(3) under "**Mountain Rescue Council**" with **EIN 91-6049880**.

Message from the Chair

Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR) had another busy year. We ended the winter season with the completion of our Snow and Avalanche Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) reaccreditation on April 27th and catapulted right into the rescue season. This summer carried a theme of “Lake rescues.” SMR responded to rescues at Annette Lake, Mason Lake, Snow Lake, and Talpus Lake.

We also welcomed our Austrian mountain rescue colleagues from Bergrettung Tirol as part of our developing international exchange program and celebrated the North Bend premier of “The Volunteers” film.



2024 highlights:

- Responded to 118 missions
- Celebrated National SAR Week in May
- Provided education and outreach to multiple organizations reaching more than 2,000 individuals
- Welcomed Austrian Mountain Rescue team, Austrian Consul General, Honorary Consul of Austria, and the Austrian Trade Commissioner
- Hosted the North Bend Premier of “The Volunteers” film
- Said goodbye to SMR’s faithful rescue truck, “Big Blue”

SMR is proud to serve the community and to be a leader in mountain rescue. We are grateful for the support of our volunteers, donors, and partners. We look forward to serving our community, King County, and the State of Washington.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug McCall".

Doug McCall
President/Chair

Notable Missions

Seattle Mountain Rescue members responded to **118** missions in 2024.



SMR team from left to right KP, Eve and Elizabeth



SMR's Kyle Lemoire and Russell Anschell – Granite Mtn.

Annette Lake

SMR responded to two missions at Annette Lake. On the first mission, the KCSO Air Support Unit helicopter conducted a hoist operation to fly a subject with a knee injury to the hospital. The second was a pack out using a litter and wheel for a subject with an injured ankle.



Annette Lake: SGT Stanley and SMR member Doug Caley



SMR pack out using litter and wheel

Mason Lake

SMR responded to Mason Lake for an overnight hiker with abdominal pain. SMR teams expedited the response and were on scene within an hour. Suspected appendicitis, the KCSO Air Support Unit hoisted the subject for treatment.



King County Sheriff's Office
Guardian 2 at Mason Lake



SMR team members Deb McInally and
Kyle Lemoire



Talpus - Olallie Lake

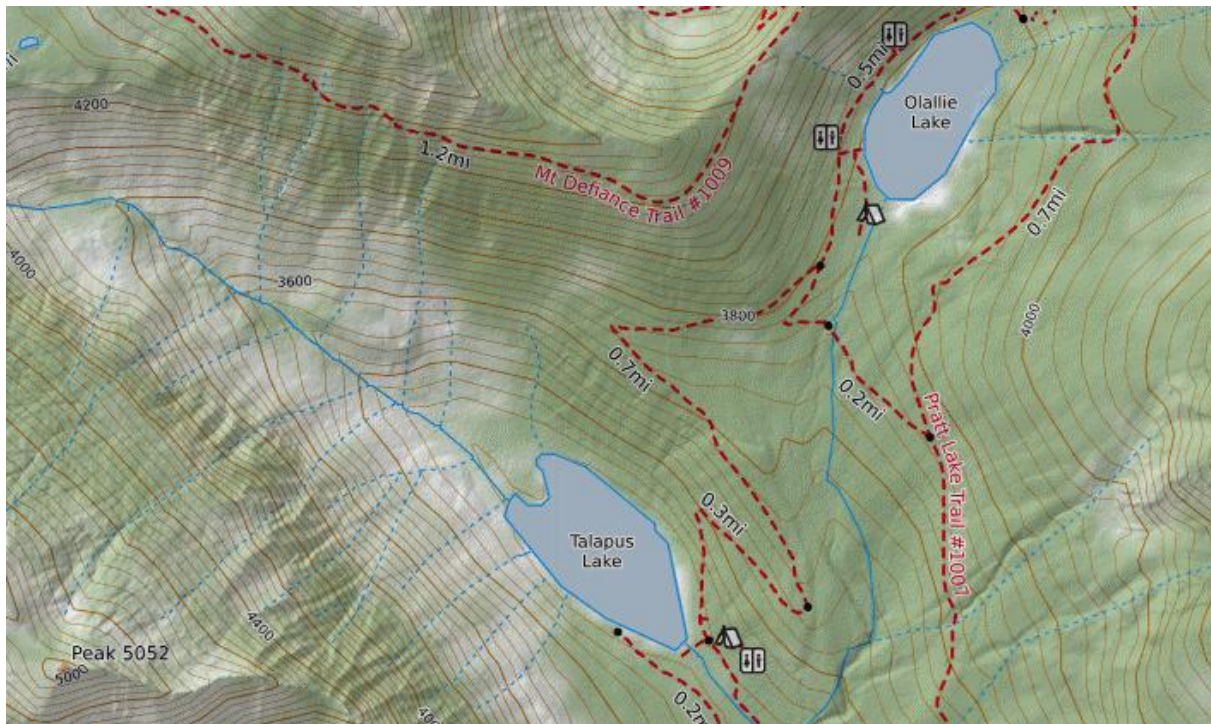
SMR responded to a hiker who complained of a back injury after falling on slippery rocks. SMR teams carried the litter and wheel into the field. On scene it was determined that a helicopter extract was needed due to the possible back injury. Snohomish Snowhawk 10 helicopter responded and conducted the helicopter rescue.



SnoHawk Helicopter rescue



SMR team members Doug Caley and Doug McCall



Snow Lake

SMR responded to Snow Lake **seven** times between April and September. Calls included hikers lost and disoriented due to weather conditions and leg, ankle and foot injuries.



Michelle Howden and Deb McNally



Using an emergency blanket to warm the subject



Barton Place, Peter Tran, Kaeli Beckham, packaging an injured subject



Nighttime rescue at Snow Lake



SMR with litter team in the fog

Technology

Drones

SMR made significant progress in our Unmanned Aerial System UAS (a.k.a. Drone) program this year. SMR was able to purchase a second Mavic 3 Thermal (M3T) drone and Eagle Eye video scanning software.

The M3T provides SMR with the capability to fly and search at night as well as during the day. The camera's zoom capabilities allow for close inspection of clues.

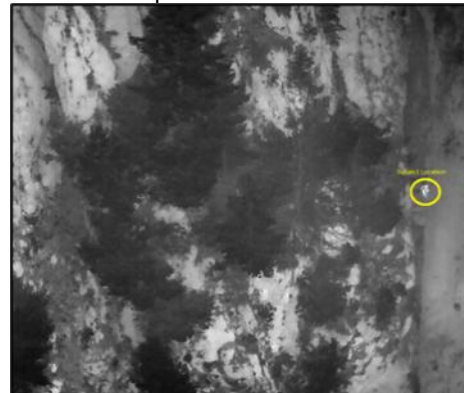
The Eagle Eye software allows SMR to analyze real-time video, recorded video and pictures for anomalies, helping to locate subjects and clues faster than ever before.

SMR utilized drones on over 20 missions and trainings this summer and is expanding drone capability in 2025 by adding more pilots, visual observers and support members.

SMR currently has 12 drone pilots and 11 visual observers on the roster.



SMR David Dunphy at the top of the cliff



Subject's location



SMR Drone 1 with search light attachment



SMR Drone 2

E-Bikes

SMR officially launched an E-Bike pilot program in Dec 2024 for SAR operations. The E-Bike program will enhance our operational efficiency, expand our rescue capabilities, and ensure the safety and well-being of our team members and the individuals we serve. By the end of 2025, we expect to have proven the value of E-Bikes in SAR operations and will begin training our members in their use.

Since the pilot started, we've been busy going on training rides to increase personal skills, conducting recon rides to scout out E-Bike usability on popular hiking trails, and responding with E-Bikes on multiple missions. We've also partnered with local bike shops for bike discounts and riding education, helping strengthen the ties to the outdoor recreation community.



Night Training Ride



Wes Cooper utilizing the E-Bike on a mission

MRA Lifesaving Award

Seattle Mountain Rescue was recognized by the Mountain Rescue Association for life saving efforts on the Three Fingers Mission in June of 2023.

Three hikers who got stranded on a snowy cliff near the Three Fingers lookout were rescued by SMR members. The hikers had planned to spend the night at the lookout, but one of them slipped and dragged another one to the edge of the cliff. They were exposed to cold, wet and cloudy weather that prevented a helicopter from reaching them. SMR members reached the hikers on foot and provided them with dry clothes, food and hot tea to warm them up. They also set up fixed ropes to help the hikers descend the steep snow sections and escorted them to safety.

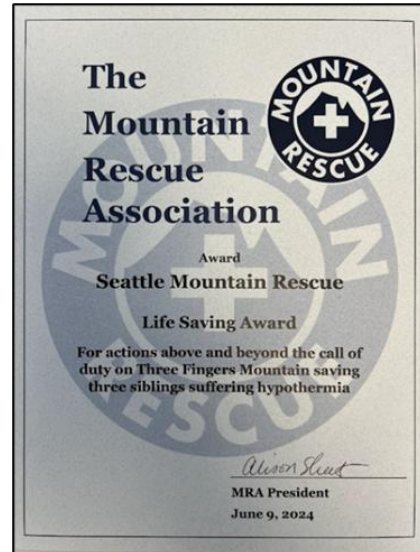


Photo from Three Fingers Mission - June 2023

Training

Seattle Mountain Rescue members participated in nearly **3,000** hours of training in 2024. Most of these training hours were focused on rigging, medical, and snow skills, followed by drone and general search and rescue training..

Rigging Hours Medical Hours Snow Hours

1,803

619

198



Wes Cooper



Patient Pick-off

Professional Rigging Training

SMR hired the company Rigging for Rescue to provide weeklong professional training to improve SMR's expertise in technical rigging systems.



Barton Place and Kevin Koprek



Rebecca Leong



SMR Rescuer Connor Bursh



Nick Constantine and
Jason Meng

Education and Outreach

SMR had a busy outreach season, providing educational safety talks in several venues.

Below are some of the organizations and events we engaged with over the summer:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Washington Trails Association• BOEALPS Safety Talk• Alaska Airlines Flight Days• Team Survivor Northwest• Volition Brewery Leadership Team• Old Stove Brewery• North Bend Downtown Foundation• ProSki Crag Clean-Up | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seattle Boulder Project• Mt. Si Days• National Night Out• The Mountaineers Freedom of the Hills Launch• Dicks-A-Thon• Girl Scouts of Western WA• The Bush School• Issaquah Salmon Days• University Prep (UPrep) School |
|--|--|



SMR crew at REI Seattle Flagship



Dicks-A-Thon running (and eating) event to support several search & rescue orgs including SMR



Issaquah Salmon Days Parade featuring a showstopping 'rescue' of Sally, the Salmon



National Night Out with Snoqualmie Police Department

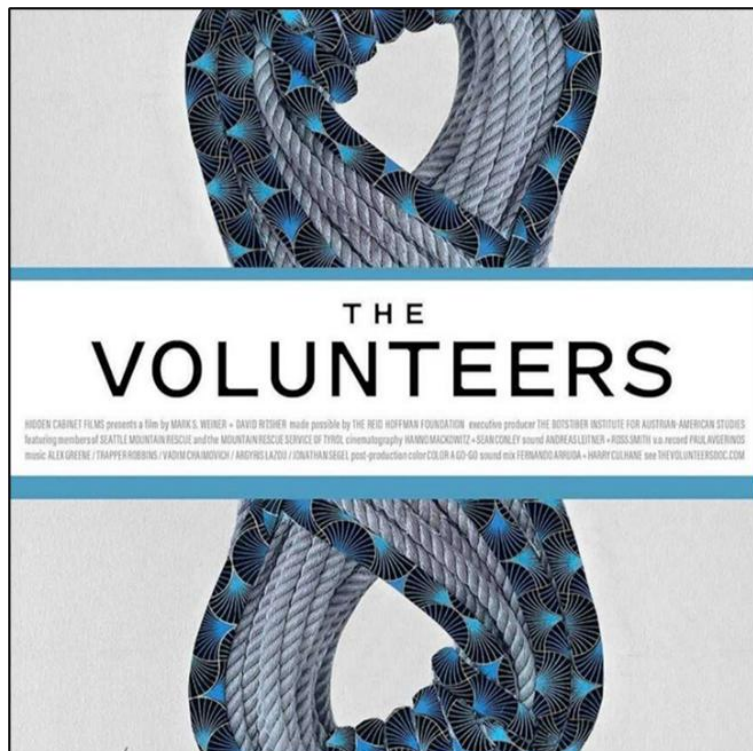
The Volunteers Film North Bend Premier

"The Volunteers: Mountain Rescue Brings Us Home."

This documentary film directed by historian Mark S. Weiner explores the surprising connections between two mountain rescue organizations: Seattle Mountain Rescue and a team in Tyrol, Austria. The film delves into their shared history, which began with the translation of a mountain rescue techniques book from Austria to the U.S. in the 1960s.

The documentary emphasizes themes of community and intergenerational teaching. It shows how mountain rescue teams can serve as a model for civic engagement and community building.

It's a fascinating look at how these dedicated volunteers not only save lives but also foster a sense of belonging and purpose within their communities.



Austrian Mountain Rescue



Bergrettung

SMR Member Jared Carlson worked tirelessly to build an agenda for our fellow Austrian Mountain Rescuers that laid the foundation for a long-term international exchange program. Several members joined the Austrians during their activities.

Some of the scheduled and non-scheduled events included:

- Freedom of the Hills 10th Edition Reception @REI
- Arc'teryx Factory Tour
- Sitting in a police car (front seat)
- Climbing the Space Needle
- Sitting in a fire engine and medic unit
- Going to Pike Place Market
- Going to a working structure fire
- Dinner at SMR member Mimi Stone's home
- Hiking Mailbox Peak
- Breakfast at Georges Bakery 2x
- Kenmore Air seaplane tour (SMR Member's brother is a Kenmore Air pilot)
- Boat ride to waterfront house & Austrian reception
- Austrian American Club Reception
- The Volunteers Movie Premier
- Volition Brewery Team Celebration



SMR and Austrian Mountain Rescuers in front of the Space Needle



Austrian Delegation and SMR at the Mountain Rescue Center in North Bend

Goodbye Big Blue

The team had a farewell party for Big Blue, our 1996 Ford F-350. Big Blue served SMR well for nearly 30 years. SMR will replace Blue with a new truck in 2025 that will be technologically equipped to better serve the changing demands of search and rescue. Big Blue will continue to serve in a search and rescue capacity as part of the Spokane County Mountain Rescue team. **Thank you, Big Blue!**



Carson, David, Andrei, Nick, Wes, Patrick, Greg, Linda, Garth, Ali, Drew, Ruffles and Gordy

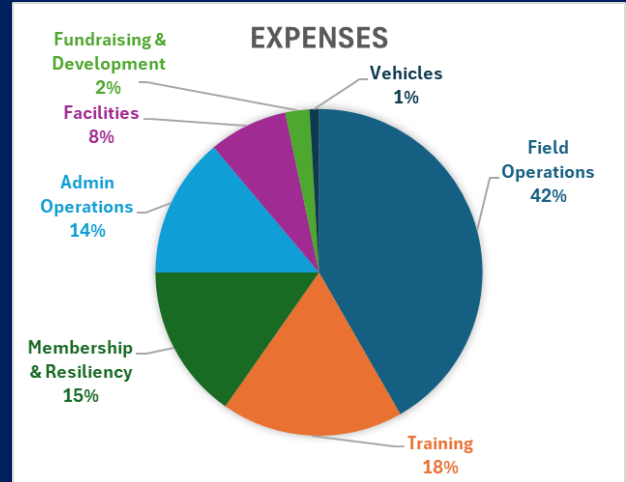
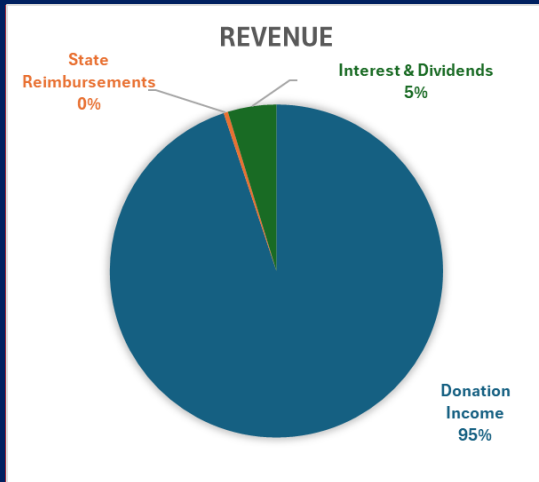


Big Blue and the Crew at Rigging Training



Big Blue early days – circa 1998

2024 Financials



Revenue

Donation Income	298,041
State Reimbursements	1,319
Interest & Dividends	14,794
Total Revenue	314,154

Expenditures

Field Operations	49,404
Training	21,305
Membership & Resiliency	18,096
Facilities	9,238
Vehicles	1,190
Admin Operations	16,439
Fundraising & Development	2,930
Total Expenditures	118,602

Net Operating Revenue

195,552

Needs List

Command Vehicle

Response Ready Command Vehicle \$168,000

Safety & Uniforms

Technical Jackets \$7,500

Insulation Jackets \$15,000

Uniform Shirts \$5,000

Rescue Equipment

New Member Rigging Kits \$7,000

Avalanche Safety \$8,400

Ropes \$6,000

Technology

Drone Equipment \$15,000

New Radios \$30,000

Database System \$2,000

Training

Professional Rigging Training \$15,000

Avalanche Rigging Training \$14,000

EMT & WFR Training \$8,000

Resiliency

Team Food \$6,000

Mental Health \$5,000

Education

MRC – Facility

Outdoor Classroom \$12,500

Operations \$9,500

Financial Partners

**Seattle Kraken – One Roof
Foundation**

<https://onerooffoundation.org/>



Microsoft Corporation.

<https://www.microsoft.com/>



Boeing

<https://www.boeing.com/>



Dicks-A-Thon

<https://www.dicksathon.com/>



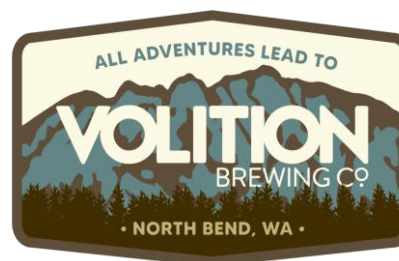
ProSki and Mountain Service

<https://www.proskiservice.com/>



Volition Brewery North Bend

<https://www.volitionbrewing.com/>



Arete Coffee North Bend

<https://aretepnw.com/>



Look ahead to 2025

We have a lot of work ahead in 2025. SMR will continue to focus on its core strategic pillars: Excellence in Rescue Operations, Excellence in Education and Outreach and Excellence in Non-Profit Operations.

SMR is committed to providing our volunteers with the highest quality training and equipment, ensuring they are prepared for any mission. We also plan to invest in advanced technology to enhance our service to the community.

To meet the changing demands of search and rescue.", SMR will replace Big Blue with a new Command Vehicle and has begun a dedicated fundraising effort. Support this initiative, your community and the mission to *bring everybody home from the backcountry!*



Cheri Higman and Stephen Cardinal
Photo by Jenna Phillips



Catherine Killian, Mimi Stone and Deb McInally



SMR Team members prepare to lower from Chair Peak

Parting Shot

Members of Seattle Mountain Rescue and Bergrettung Tirol climb the tower at the top of the Space Needle. Thank you to the whole Space Needle team for this opportunity.



*Photo by Jenna Phillips (SMR Support Member and Drone Pilot)
Thank You Space Needle Team!*

A BIG thank you to all our donors and to

Seattle Mountain Rescue volunteers!

