CORVALLIS
MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT
NEWSLETTER

Calendar

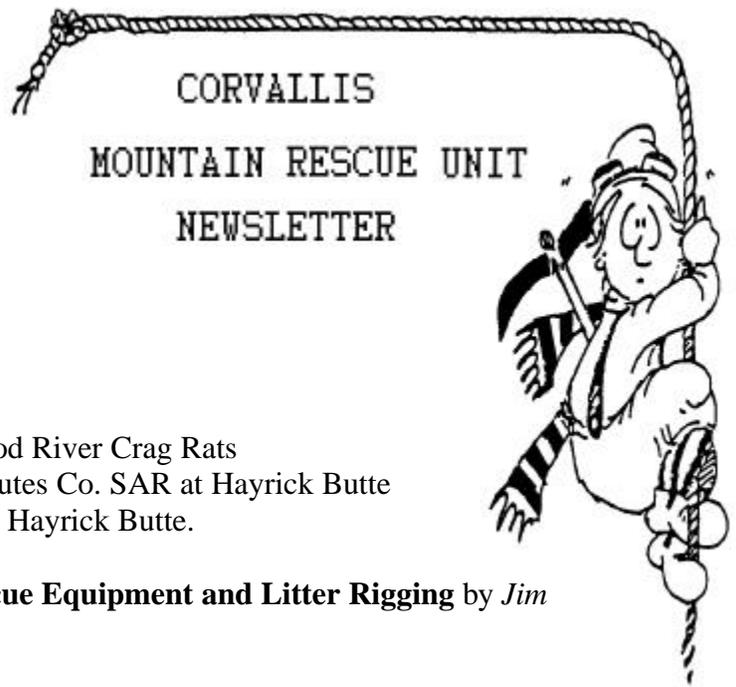| April	4	7:00pm	UNIT MEETING -- Training: **Anchors and Anchor Systems** by *Jeff Gent*
April	8		Albany YMCA Presentation
April	15	9:00am	OMRC Reaccreditation of Hood River Crag Rats
	16	9:00am	OMRC accreditation of Deschutes Co. SAR at Hayrick Butte and Oregon Region practice at Hayrick Butte.
April	19	7:00pm	TRAINING SESSION -- **Rescue Equipment and Litter Rigging** by *Jim Dagata*
April	21	12:00pm	SUMMIT Info Systems Presentation
April	22	9:00am	SKILLS WORKSHOP -- at the Truck Bay
April	24	7:00pm	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
April	29	6:45am	McDONALD FOREST RUN
May	2	7:00pm	UNIT MEETING -- Training: **Patient Packaging** by *Jeremy Adolf.*
May	17	7:00pm	TRAINING SESSION -- **Truck Orientation and Driving** by *Don Lacer*
May	20/21	10:00am	**ROCK PRACTICE** -- organized by *Jeff Gent*
May	22	7:00pm	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH FIELD TRAINING -- revisited

Our March field training was a simulated mission on Marys Peak. It actually began at the March Unit Meeting when Anne Greenwood conducted a "table top" search exercise which Jon reinforced during his Training Session on March 15 and it then proceeded into the field on Saturday, March 18.

Five CMRU members attended the field portion for this t**raining** event. Although the weather was typical of Western Oregon in the Spring, it could have been a whole lot worse! We spend a couple of hours practicing open line searching technique -- sidehilling through moderate to heavy vegetation. To make life interesting, the side boundaries of the search area were defined by radials off the summit of Marys Peak. But due to the vegetation, we couldn't see the summit and had to rely on GPS to determine our position as we approached the side boundaries. That should all work well, as long as you have the proper coordinates for the top of the Peak, if they have been entered into the GPS unit correctly, and if the canopy and terrain allow adequate GPS reception.

This practice pointed out a couple of things. First, if you are going to use a specific reference point for GPS navigation, be certain the coordinates have been determined properly. Have more than one person determine the coordinates. Next, our members need more time working with the GPS receivers to become proficient. Line searching on a steep, slippery sidehill is not fun and is likely to be a pain in more than one part of your anatomy. And finally, proper eye protection is very important when searching in brush -- especially if you wear contacts.

Members participating: B. Freund, A. Greenwood, D. Lacer, S. Leach, J. Linn, K. Vertenan

The *Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit Newsletter* is published monthly to keep friends and members of the Unit informed of our activities.

Editor: Bob Freund

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER --

What do you call a week of intense emergency medical training slanted toward the non-urban setting? For CMRU members Jim Dagata and Jon Sears it was called the *Wilderness First-Responder* course they attended in lieu of taking Spring Break. They spent more than eight days attending classes and working scenarios to receive the WFR certification. They will be giving a short presentation about the course and their feelings about its value to CMRU.

On a related matter, Joy Linn and Jim Dagata are investigating closer ties with OSU regarding availability of WFR and similar training (e.g. CPR) for interested CMRU members. More information will be distributed as this relationship solidifies.

NEW COMPUTER -- has arrived

Thanks to Jeff Gent's contacts, CMRU how has a new computer. The Sony PCG-F350 model has a bright, 14.1 inch screen and has been outfitted with mapping and navigation software as well as the Microsoft Office suite of programs. Paging software has been installed for alphanumeric paging and our cellular "bag" phone has been fitted with an adapter to allow the computer's modem to make outgoing calls.

The computer has a DVD player which also acts as its CD drive. I guess we know what the basecamp personnel will be doing when things get slack during a mission! Although the computer's internal battery will last up to three hours, it runs down pretty fast when the various motors (i.e. disk drives, DVD drive, etc.) are used. We can operate the computer off the truck batteries via an inverter which lives in the computer's carrying case.

With PowerPoint installed on the computer, it will also become one of our primary instructional tools. Already, outdoor safety educational presentations have been installed, and we are seeking other PowerPoint-based programs for Unit training.

OMRC WEEKEND -- April 15 & 16

On Saturday, April 15 (you will have your taxes done by then, right?) the Hood River Crag Rats will be evaluated in all three modules for MRA reaccreditation. The events will begin with the Rock Module in the morning at the Deschutes River canyon above Salmon Falls, followed by the Search Module and finally the Winter Module at Hayrick Butte. CMRU is responsible for setting up the Rock Module so it would be helpful to have several members available that morning at the site by Salmon Falls. Remember, CMRU is up for evaluation next year, so watching another team go through the process can be very helpful.

On Sunday, April 16, Deschutes County SAR will be evaluated in the Winter Module at Hayrick Butte. This is the final module they need for Full membership status with MRA. Following that evaluation, there will be a joint practice involving all OMRC teams at Hayrick Butte. It would nice to have a large CMRU turnout for this part of the event. EMR is responsible for setting up the Winter Module evaluations and has indicated they plan to "car camp" Saturday night at Ray Benson Parking Lot.

Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit
Post Office Box 116
Corvallis, OR 97339-0116