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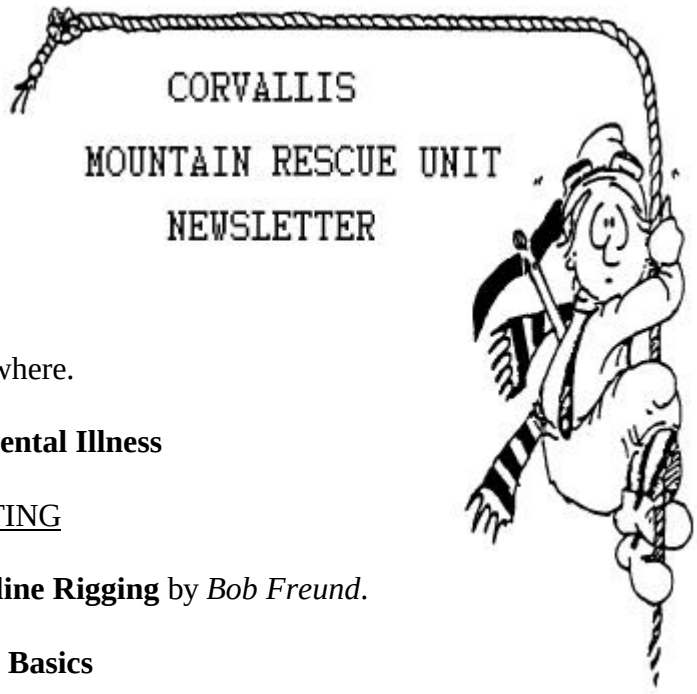
Founding Member of the **Mountain Rescue Association**



Calendar

June	***3***	7:00pm	UNIT MEETING – **Summer Social** (*This meeting is Monday*) at Kathy Blackburn's house. Bring a dessert or salad.
June	15	Pageout	MOCK MISSION – it could be anywhere.
June	19	7:00pm	TRAINING SESSION -- **Environmental Illness**
June	24	7:00pm	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
July	2	7:00pm	UNIT MEETING – Training: **Highline Rigging** by *Bob Freund*.
July	17	7:00pm	TRAINING SESSION – **Helicopter Basics**
July	20	9:00am	HIGHLINE and PIT CAVE ORIENTATION
July	20	7:00pm	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

KATHY BLACKBURN ADVANCES – to support

At last month's Rock Practice, Kathy was evaluated on the *system rigging* component and passed the final requirement to allow her advancement to Support. Congratulations, Kathy.

SUMMER SOCIAL – on a **Monday**

The June Unit Meeting will be held on a Monday, June 3rd, (*instead of its usual first Tuesday*) and will be the Summer Social. This year, it will be hosted by Kathy Blackburn and her husband, Dale. The Unit will provide pizza and soft drinks. Unit members can bring a dessert (and perhaps a half dozen containers of *adult* beverage).

ANNUAL ROCK PRACTICE – revisited

Even the weather cooperated during our annual Rock Practice at Steelhead Falls – it threatened, but didn't rain! On Saturday, we practiced system rigging, lowering, raising and changes between the two. We worked with a litter and with a single rescuer doing "pick-off's."

A dynamometer was rigged into various places of our technical evacuation system to evaluate the loads created. As one might expect, higher loads were recorded during a raising operation than during a lowering. A typical maximum load with one person and a litter on the raising line was about 300 pounds. Since the dynamometer was available, we rigged a section of "old" rescue rope with a "high-strength" tie-off to a tree and put a Prusik hitch on the line. Then we rigged a 5:1 pulley system and got about five big, husky brutes to begin pulling to see where the Prusik would slip. The hitch slipped at about 1200 pounds. It was interesting to note an individual effort (1:1) could pull about 100 pounds (a little more for some, a little less for others). During the Prusik-slip test, another observation was that the Prusik would slip as predicted so long as the (slack) line "upstream" of the Prusik was maintained as a straight line. If it was allowed to "pile-up" beside the Prusik, the hitch tended to "roll" and bind-up rather than slip. The moral of that story: the "dog-n-tails" operator needs to keep the slack out of the mainline in order to keep the line coming straight out of the Prusik during a raise.

On Sunday, there was practice on fixed-line maneuvering and passing knots through the evacuation system. Thanks, Iain, for organizing and conducting an informative weekend field training in the rock environment; and thanks to all who contributed observations and ideas for improvement.

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The *Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit Newsletter* is published monthly and distributed electronically to keep friends and members of the Unit informed of our activities. Editor: Bob Freund