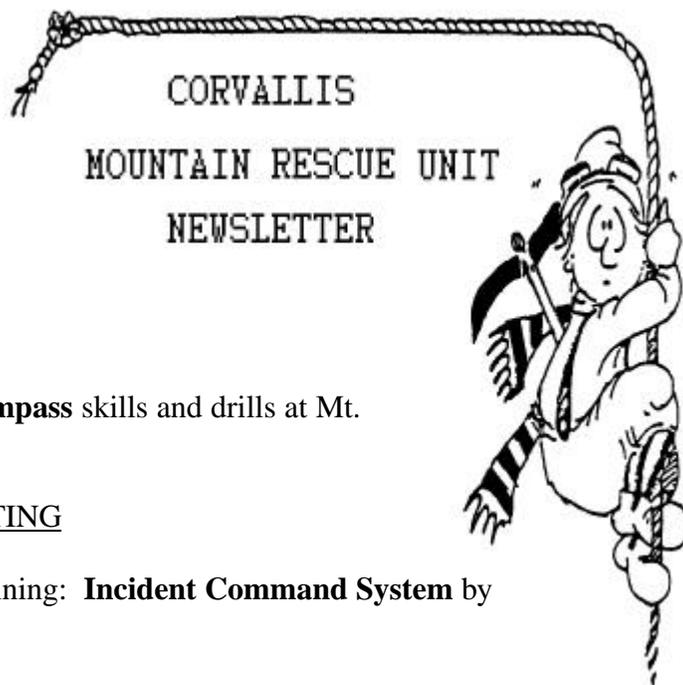


Calendar

- March 4 7:00pm UNIT MEETING – Training: **Radio Communication Skills And Drills** by *Matt Crawford*.
- March 12 7:00pm TRAINING SESSION – **Map, Compass, and Navigation**
- March 15 9:00am FIELD TRAINING – **Map and Compass** skills and drills at Mt. Pisgah in Eugene.
- March 24 7:00pm EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
- April 1 7:00pm UNIT MEETING (no foolin') – Training: **Incident Command System** by *Mike Bamberger*.
- April 16 7:00pm TRAINING SESSION – **Heat Related Illness** by Dr. Jeff Humphries.
- April 26 9:00am **OMRC Reaccreditation** near Mt. Hood.
- April 26 8:00am **McDonald Forest Ultramarathon**



ADVANCEMENTS – to Rescue

Upon completion of the Search Management Systems course, three Support members had jumped through their final hoop. At the February Executive Committee meeting, Jim Dagata, Scott Linn, and Iain Morris were advanced from Support to Rescue level. Congratulations to all three!

WELCOME ABOARD – Jason Wood

Jason Wood is the Unit's latest member. Jason owns his own floor covering business in Albany and is a rock climber and outdoor enthusiast. In the past he has been a volunteer with Lebanon and Scio fire departments. Jason was accepted as a Trainee in January, but the Newsletter staff failed to print his announcement in last month's Newsletter. *Sorry, Jason.*

FEBRUARY FIELD TRAINING – revisited

by **Lindsay Clunes**

On Saturday, 2/15/03, at 0900, Matt and I left the Santiam Snow Park and hiked along the highway to the trailhead of the PCNST. We hoped to travel counterclockwise around Three Fingered Jack. The wind was light, the clouds were thin and the temp was 35 F. There was no precipitation...yet. We left Corvallis earlier in the morning in torrential rains. The weather forecast was for rain. The trail was well packed and easy to follow, but the snow was not as fast as we had hoped. Our turnaround time was 1400. We hoped to be near the East Buttress at 1400.

The snow began to fall a little ways up the trail. The temp is 35 F. We made good time and found ourselves at our high point at 1400. The weather was foggy, wind at about 15mph, snowing and [still] 35 F. It would only take a few minutes of skiing to be at the East Buttress and it's downhill all the way to the northside of the mountain! We decided that the dark, foggy void wasn't calling our names, so we turned around at that point. The decision was a good one, because the snow had a breakable, slushy crust that made for slow going. The falling snow turned to rain at the Rockpile, about a mile from the trailhead. The temperature was 35 F [still]. We made it back to the cars at 1730.

I believe every trip is a learning experience. We found that our shells kept our insulation fairly dry. We found a more direct route into the South bowl leading to the South ridge highpoint. Instead of the steep, tree clogged route that we took in, we found a gradual, open slope with a few big trees for some nice tree skiing. It made the trip! In spite of the weather, we had a good ski tour. **Participants: Lindsay Clunes and Matt Crawford**

SEARCH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM COURSE –

For three days over the February 22/23 weekend, eight CMRU members attended a course in search management given by lead instructor Hugh Dougher (NPS Ranger) and Barney Riley (Ft. Stevens State Park). The course utilizes a curriculum developed by the Emergency Response Institute. Since most searches (over 90%) are resolved within 18 hours, the course focused on actions to be taken during the “first operational period.” But one never knows if *your* search will be part of that 90% or part of the other 10% so actions taken in the first operational period need to emphasize proper organization and data retention to allow successive op periods to build on a firm foundation. The information is very similar to that presented in the *Managing Search Operations* (MSO) course, but with a slightly different slant.

The course has been presented in Oregon several times, and this time CMRU was hosting the event. In addition to CMRU, there were participants from Benton County Sheriff, Linn County Sheriff, Curry County, Portland Mountain Rescue, Marys Peak SAR, and Benton County Posse.

After each presentation, a practical “scenario” was run to reinforce the material just presented and the build upon material presented in earlier sections. All the scenarios were real operations which had been researched to discover what the subject had actually done.

OMRC REACCREDITATION – challenge

For some reason (not shared with us) this year’s reaccreditation has been rescheduled from 19 April to 26 April which conflicts directly with our coverage of the McDonald Forest Ultra Marathon. CMRU has volunteered to develop the problem for the Rock section. This year, the evaluation will be held near Mt. Hood as a convenience to Portland Mountain Rescue and the Crag Rats. Both teams will be evaluated simultaneously in all three sections.