

MERIDIAN



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*Celebrating
Fifty Years!*





July 2009

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COVER PHOTO: See page 2. Cover design by Isabel Shimanski

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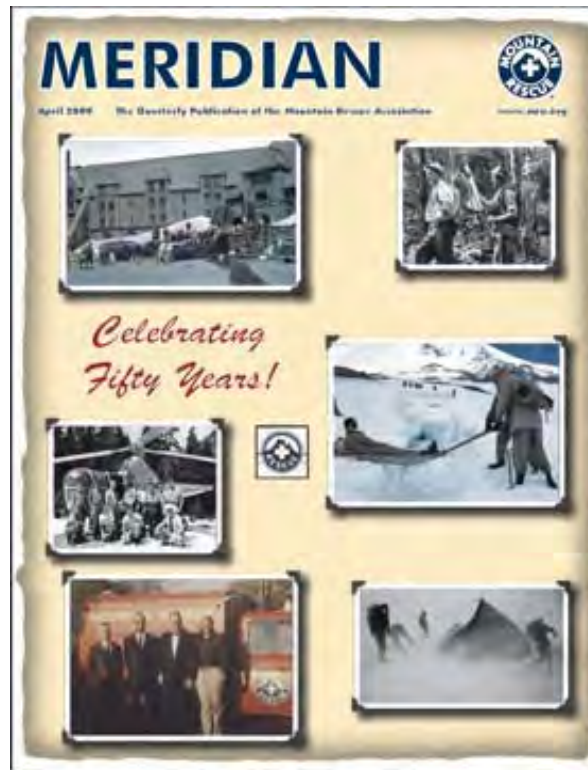
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ABOUT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY COVER

The following photos comprise the cover of this special *50th Anniversary Edition* of Meridian.

Upper left: the founding fathers gather at Timberline Lodge on June 7, 1959, the weekend in which the Mountain Rescue Association was formed.

Upper right: Lou and Jim Whittaker with collapsible litter and ski in 1959. Photo courtesy of Seattle Museum of History and Industry.

Middle left: Early Seattle Mountain Rescue Council training at Stevens Pass in Washington's Cascade Range in 1955. Standing, from left: Chuck Welsh, Dee Molenaar, Coast Guard pilot, "K" Molenaar, Max Eckenburg, Ome Daiber, Coast Guard crew member, John Thomson, and Lou Whittaker. Kneeling, from left: Wolf Bauer, unknown rescuer, Jim Whittaker, and Coast Guard pilot. Photo courtesy of University of Washington Library, Special Collections Division.

Middle right: Rescuers training on the flanks of Mt. Hood at the June 1959 inaugural Mountain Rescue Association conference. Photo courtesy of Phil Umholz, past MRA President (1975 to 1978).

Lower left: The first four Mountain Rescue Association presidents, in front of a Seattle Mountain Rescue Council Truck. From left: Dick Pooley, Dorrell Loof, Don Arens, and Vance Yost, 1965. Photo courtesy of Dick Pooley, MRA's first President (1959 to 1961).

Lower right: Storm at 13,000 feet during the 1960 Mount McKinley Rescue. Photo courtesy of Dee Molenaar.

THE MRA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Report by Paul Whiting

The Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) Spring Conference was a celebration of the MRA's 50th Anniversary. The location for this year's conference was, of course, Timberline Lodge, located at 6,000 ft on the southern slopes of Mt. Hood.

Timberline Lodge is located within the Mount Hood National Forest and was constructed between 1936 and 1938 as a Works Progress Administration project during the Great Depression. The aims of this project was to create work for the unemployed, to train them in new skills and to provide facilities which encouraged US citizens to visit an area of scenic beauty and to try out outdoor pursuits while in the area. Workers used large timber beams and local stone, and placed intricately carved decorative elements throughout the building. Its architecture, materials and setting combine to give it a very rustic feel. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Lodge on September 28, 1937 and it is considered a US National Historic Landmark.

Over the weekend of June 6 and 7, 1959, Timberline Lodge was the venue for the first meeting and first spring training conference of the Mountain Rescue Association. At that first meeting, the first constitution was signed by delegates of the nine founding volunteer teams and two ex-officio government organizations. For this reason, Timberline Lodge is considered the birthplace of the MRA. To mark this, the MRA had a special commemorative plaque (see related article) created to celebrate this occasion and a small ceremony and unveiling was held on the Friday afternoon of the conference (June 26, 2009).

Pre-conference Activities

A pre-conference workshop took place on Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue at the historic Cloud Cap Inn. In addition to the workshop, a number of "informal group climbs" were organized by some of the nearby MR units on some of the major peaks around Portland.

The Conference

The conference itself ran from Thursday, June 25 through to Sunday, June 28.

Thursday, June 25

Activities on the Thursday concentrated on allowing attendees to register and visit the trade exhibits, which ACR electronics, Cascade Rescue, Rescue Response Gear, Yates Professional, OMI, RECCO Avalanche Rescue System, Ortovox, Petzl, Rock Exotica, Conterra EMS/Rescue, Sterling Rope, Insight Tech Gear, US Rigging Supply, Thinsulate Insulation, 3M Scotchlite Reflective Material, Sterling Rope, and Rock-N-Rescue.

Friday, June 26

Friday was devoted to a series of field and/or classroom sessions. From 16:30 to 18:00 there was a great session titled "Old Timers Story Hour" which was hosted by MRA President, Charley Shimanski. Twelve of the early founders of the MRA were in front of a standing-room only crowd and Charley teased from them their early memories of their mountaineering and mountain Rescue days.



MRA Legends Jim Whittaker and Wolf Bauer exchanges stories outside the historic Timberline Lodge at the MRA's 50th celebration. Photo courtesy of Dianne Roberts

Following an enjoyable BBQ dinner in Wy'East Day Lodge, past MRA President Dan Hourihan hosted the MRA Award Ceremony where a number of awards were presented to MRA members and teams for their service.

Friday concluded with Video *Night*. Some of the videos submitted by MRA teams were promotional, some humorous, some serious and about rescues. At the end of the evening the audience got to vote on their favorite videos. It was a novel idea and very enjoyable.

Saturday, June 27

Saturday was the Rescue Rendezvous, a round-robin training exercise where each team works its way through nine different scenarios located on the lower ski slopes below Timberline Lodge. Each station tested a team on a different facet of mountain rescue or mountaineering. Each team had 20 minutes to complete each exercise and then 10 minutes to navigate to the next station.

This is a great activity to get to know other MRA members and their teams as invariably you end up on a team where you might know only one or two people. As your team moves around the course and scenarios, the onus of team leader and safety officer is rotated between the team members. The other facet of this activity that I really liked is cross-pollination of ideas, approaches and techniques. As your team is coming up with a plan on how to tackle each scenario, each team member has the opportunity to propose a solution based on the training and techniques of their home team. Finally, it's a great team building exercise as you start out as strangers and end up as friends!

During the Saturday evening silent auction, there was a book sale and book signing. The main book available was the MRA's history "Mountains Don't Care, But We Do" by Dee Molenaar (see my book review elsewhere in this issue). Also signing copies of his latest book was another MRA founder, Jim Whittaker, the first American to successfully climb Mt. Everest in 1963.

After dinner, we moved back over to Timberline Lodge for the premier of the "Mountains Don't Care, But We Do" DVD. This has been a project that Rick Lorenz and his son Matt worked on. Their movie "Mountains Don't Care, But We Do!" is about the first 50 years of the MRA (see related article)

The long day concluded back in the Wy'East Day Lodge for the social part of the evening called "Rockin' with Rocky" – a combination of dancing, socializing and free beer.

Concluding Comments

This is my second MRA conference and it was as enjoyable as my first. This was slightly different for me as I was not the only overseas visitor as I was the year before – this time I was joined by two other Australians and the three IKAR delegates.

This conference was particularly special due to its location and the fact it celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the MRA. As a side note, it is interesting to note that PMR also hosted the 40th

and 30th Anniversary conferences (and may well have hosted other earlier conferences). The MRA is to be congratulated for such an excellent conference but PMR deserves special praise for their planning, preparation and seamless delivery of the conference. They even had a rescue to deal with on the Sunday during the Business Meeting!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Paul Whiting is the Development Director of the Irish Mountain Rescue Association. During Paul's visit to Timberline Lodge, Paul successfully summited Mt. Hood, his first climb of a glaciated peak).

MRA LEGENDS

One of the highlights of the 50th Anniversary conference at Timberline Lodge was a reunion of "MRA legends." Dubbed the "Old-Timers' Hour," the program included some terrific story-telling by MRA veterans including Wolf Bauer, Dick Pooley, George Sainsbury, Jim Whittaker and Dee Molenaar.

At the end of the program, MRA Past Presidents joined in the front of the room for a group photo.



MRA LEGENDS:

Back Row (left to right): John Barton, Dave Nelson, Lynn Buchanan, George Sainsbury, Dick Pooley (MRA's first president), Jim Whittaker, Dee Molenaar, Michael Norman, John Wehbring, Bert Brown, and Wolf Bauer

Front Row (left to right): MRA Past Presidents Dan Hourihan, Tim Cochrane, Rocky Henderson, Monty Bell, Dave Moore, Tim Kovacs, Otto Trott (channeled through his daughter Roxanne Trott), and Drew Davis

COMMEMORATIVE ICE AXE UNVEILED AT MT. HOOD

As announced in the January issue of Meridian, the MRA held a very special unveiling at Timberline Lodge of a very special bronze sculpture that honors the formation of the MRA.

Thanks to the efforts of Rocky Henderson and Portland Mountain Rescue Group, the National Forest Service agreed to the hanging of the sculpture, which now hangs just outside the entrance to the Blue Ox Bar on the ground floor of Timberline Lodge.

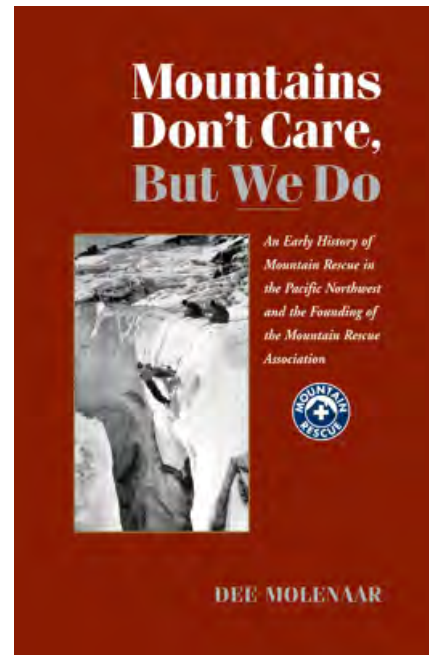


This bronze plaque, honoring the formation of the MRA, was mounted on the wall outside the Blue Ox Bar at of Timberline Lodge and unveiled in a special ceremony in June. Photo by Paul Whiting

Those attending the unveiling included staff from the US Forestry Service, Timberline Lodge, early MRA founders and past and present officers of the MRA.

The artist who created the sculpture is himself a distinguished mountain rescuer. Richard Arnold joined Mountain Rescue Aspen in 1972. Arnold responded to more than 100 rescues in Colorado's highest peaks before retiring from Mountain Rescue Aspen in the late 1980's. He served as President of Mountain Rescue Aspen, and as Chair of the MRA Rocky Mountain Region.

A special interpretive sign was also installed next to the sculpture, honoring the formation of the MRA and noting its 50th anniversary.



MOUNTAINS DON'T CARE, BUT WE DO – THE BOOK

During the 50th Anniversary Conference at Timberline Lodge, the MRA unveiled an important book that chronicles the early formation of organized rescue in the Pacific Northwest.

“Mountains Don't Care, But We Do” is the latest in a long and distinguished history of important contributions to art and literature by Dee Molenaar – climber, artist, rescuer, and one of the MRA's early legends

The idea of a book on the history of mountain rescue began with Rick Lorenz, who was the first to suggest it to Molenaar. At the 2008 Spring Meeting in Stowe, Vermont, the MRA membership joined in by committing funding to assist the project. Ultimately, MRA President Charley Shimanski brought in contracts with Boulder Bookworks, who would print the book and The Mountaineers Books would agree to distribute the book. The addition of The Mountaineers Books increased the press run from 500 to 1,500 overnight.

At the 20th Anniversary celebration at Mt. Hood, Dee personally autographed more than 100 copies of the book, and faced a long line throughout the book signing, which took place during the silent auction.

A review of this great book by MRA member Mike Vorachek follows:

REVIEW: Mountains Don't Care, But We Do
By Mike Vorachek

Dee Molenaar has written a tremendous book about the "Early History of Mountain Rescue in the Pacific Northwest and the Founding of the Mountain Rescue Association".

If you are reading the Meridian, this book is for you, because it is about you. Dee's book has over 200 pages of information that takes us back to our roots and provides an insight into the grueling conditions that our predecessors endured to bring people out of the wilderness. The fascinating stories of early rescues that were undertaken in the worst weather, with little or no equipment, wearing the "primitive" clothing of the times – should make us stand back and think of how much things have evolved, and why the MRA was founded to lead some of that evolution.

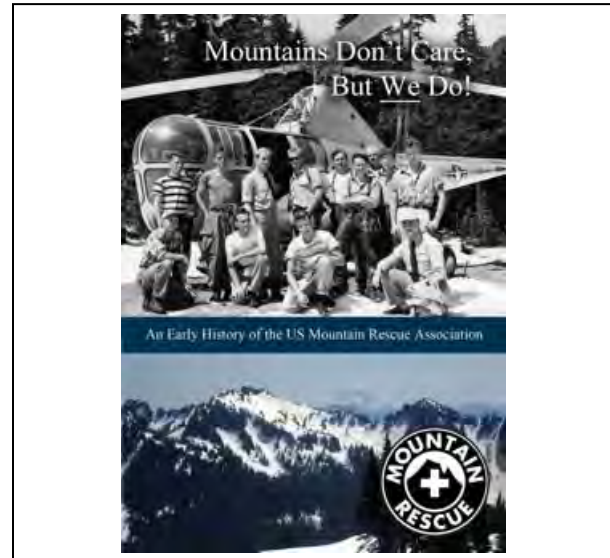
Dee provides a very telling quote from The American Alpine Club in 1961, which says: "Rescuers risk their lives and limbs to save the unfortunate victims. [This] does emphasize the hazardous nature of rescue operations and the need for a well-trained, well-equipped group." The book provides a tremendous insight as to how the MRA has evolved to try and meet that need. The individual accounts of the missions that began the evolution of technical rope rescue to where we are today are poignant.

As I contemplated the many things that had changed from the early days to modern efforts, I realized that the one thing that has not changed is the rescuer. Dee addresses this very well, and includes a timeless quotation from Ome Daiber, founder of the Seattle Mountain Rescue Council and a key character in our history. Ome said it best when he spoke, "It isn't that we don't care. We are there because we **do** care."

Folks, this is a must read for all of us. It captures the essence of what continues to bring the mountain rescue community together by examining the tremendous history of our past and the personal stories of those that marked the trail that we have committed to follow.

The book is available through MRA stores, or through the Mountaineers Books at http://www.mountaineersbooks.org/product_details.cfm?PC=1500

Thanks, Dee, for your incredible labor of love!!



MOUNTAINS DON'T CARE, BUT WE DO – THE VIDEO

One highlight of the MRA 50th Anniversary Conference was the premier of a 27-minute video also called "***Mountains Don't Care, But We Do***" and developed by Topograph Media.

During the planning stages for the 50th Anniversary Celebration at Mount Hood, it became clear that this would be the time to record, publish and distribute a basic history of mountain rescue in the US. The initial meeting of the MRA was in 1959 at Mount Hood, and the Washington and Oregon teams took the lead in developing a national association. The charter was finally signed in 1959 at Timberline Lodge at Mt. Hood.

In the summer of 2008 MRA commissioned the above-mentioned book by Dee Molenaar and a documentary video was a natural outgrowth of that project. In addition to a \$2,000 investment by the MRA itself, we were fortunate to have a private foundation and long-time supporter of the MRA contribute the money to make the video possible.

The DVD contains a new documentary video and two historic films, as well as special features.

Mountains Don't Care, But We Do! (27 minutes) features Dee Molenaar, Jim Whittaker, Wolf Bauer, Dick Pooley and other key individuals involved in the early history of mountain rescue in the Pacific Northwest. It traces the development of

mountain rescue teams in Washington and Oregon including the first major operation on Mount McKinley in 1960. It shows that the roots of mountain rescue were in the Alps, with immigrants Wolf Bauer and Otto Trott bringing their experience and skills from Europe to the US. The video closes with a look at mountain rescue today, as well as some answers to the question: What motivates mountain rescuers?

Mountain Rescue Training at the Wilder Kaiser, Austria, 1948. (25 minutes) provides historic footage of early mountain rescue techniques developed by Wastl Mariner and others in Austria and Germany in the 1940's. The original film was very influential in the early development of mountain rescue in the US, after a copy was brought to the US by Seattle Mountain Rescue Founder Wolf Bauer in 1949. The video was made available by of the International Commission of Alpine Rescue (IKAR) and new English subtitles have been added by Matt Lorenz and Victoria Mayer of Topograph Media.

Mountains Don't Care. (20 minutes) was produced by the Seattle Mountain Rescue Council in 1953, featuring Ome Daiber (founder of Seattle Mountain Rescue), with Jim and Lou Whittaker. The video includes a dramatized mountain rescue on the slopes of Mount Rainier, and a crevasse rescue led by Jim Whittaker. Later there is a section on basic mountain safety including an overnight trip led by Ome and Matie Daiber with a young inexperienced couple. It was made available by Spring Family Trust for Trails, see <http://www.springtrailtrust.org/>

Special Features in the DVD include selected interviews with the pioneers of mountain rescue in the Pacific Northwest, and slides of the founding meeting of the Mountain Rescue Association at Mount Hood in 1959. Extended interview footage includes Jim Whittaker, Wolf Bauer and Dick Pooley.

The DVD was produced by Topograph Media, www.topographmedia.com, © 2009. You can watch a preview of the video by going to <http://vimeo.com/5578229>.

The DVD is distributed by the MRA. To purchase YOUR copy of this amazing historic retrospective, go to www.mra.org/about/dvd.php

MRA TEAM VIDEOS

By Tom Stringfield, Portland Mountain Rescue

Last month's 50th Anniversary MRA Conference included a Video Night event. Several entries, including 3 of the 4 prize winning videos, are available on *YouTube*. Links to these videos are available on Portland Mountain Rescue's MRA 50th website:

<http://www.pmr.org/pressroom/headlines/2009MRAVideos.html>

More links will be posted shortly.

AN INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR, ARTIST, CLIMBER DEE MOLENAAR

By Charley Shimanski

In the weeks preceding the MRA's 50th Anniversary at Mt. Hood, I had a chance to ask a few questions of Dee Molenaar, author of ***Mountains Don't Care, But We Do.***

Molenaar shared with me some valuable insights about his long and distinguished career as a mountaineer, artist, rescuer, and author.

Shimanski: Dee, what made you want to write a book on the history of mountain rescue in the USA?

Molenaar: Actually, I never thought of it until Rick Lorenz invited me to author the book. It was all his idea. Then I realized that I already had much of the material in my Rainier book. I got enthused about the project when I realized that I was among the few remaining charter members of the Seattle Mountain Rescue Council, and I already had met many of the Oregon old-time rescuers while climbing Mt. Hood over the decades--and when attending the 1959 conference at Timberline.

Shimanski: This book is an historic retrospective, and must have taken a lot of time and energy researching. Was there anything that surprised you when you did the research on the book?

Molenaar: I was happily surprised to learn that a couple mountaineers in Portland had already

covered much of the material on Mt. Hood, and they told me to borrow whatever I wanted from their material. I should add a "thank you" to Jack Grauer, for allowing me to borrow freely from his continuing updated reprints of his series on Mt. Hood, and to Ric Conrad, who allowed me to borrow from his unpublished (I recommend its publication!) manuscript covering the history of the Crag Rats and Wy'easters clubs of Hood River, and to the many others who contributed ideas through the project.

Shimanski: "Mountains Don't Care..." is yet another in an impressive list of creative endeavors by Dee Molenaar. You're 92 years old, yet twice as spry as Brad Washburn and Bob Bates were at this age.

What's next in your long and illustrious career?

Molenaar: Since I retired from the USGS in 1983 I've been working on my autobiography and I have essentially completed the manuscript and numerous illustrations and maps. My interest in mountains extends beyond the physical act of climbing and as a geologist and historian I enjoyed sharing my love of the mountains beyond the joys of climbing.

I last climbed Rainier in 1984 at age 66, and after some 50 ascents via 15 routes and three first ascents, the activity was becoming a bit of déjà vu. An artist at heart, I enjoy doing a good watercolor as much as doing a good climb.



Dee Molenaar (left) joins Jim Whittaker and Wolf Bauer at Timberline Lodge for a photo. Photo courtesy of Dianne Roberts.

Shimanski: During your long and distinguished career on Mt. Rainier, were there any rescues that stand out for you?

Molenaar: During my summers as mountain guide, then seasonal and permanent ranger at Paradise during 1940-41, 1947, and 1948-52. I recall being involved mostly in searches and body recoveries. The only attempted rescue was that in April 1951 when, assistant chief ranger, Bill Butler, rangers Bob Johnson, Delmer Armstrong, and I climbed hurriedly up Fuhrer Finger to rescue Air Force pilot Lt. John Hodgkin who had landed his ski-equipped Piper Cub in the saddle between Pt. Success and the crater rim; the first and only plane landing atop the mountain.

We left Paradise at 1 a.m. and reached his landing site at 4 p.m. only to find he's coasted off the peak and landed at frozen and snow-covered Mowich Lake. He was later fined for his illegal stunt.

Shimanski: Are there any fellow rescuers that you are particularly fond of? Anyone that particularly sticks out in your mind?

Molenaar: I dedicated my Rainier book, "To Bill Butler, who for over 30 years was wherever help was needed on the mountain ... a legend in his time."

I first met Bill in 1939, when I was a visiting (and neophyte climber) from Los Angeles, with my brother and two friends making an attempt on the mountain with home-made ice axes, smooth-soled, knee-length boots better suited for the Mojave Desert, and six-point crampons.

Then in 1940, after I'd been invited by Clark Schurman to begin guiding on the mountain, my first trip up the peak was a route-checking climb of several rangers and guides led by Butler.

Over the years I've admired quite a few heroic figures among the members of MRA units on Washington and Oregon on both sides of the Cascades. These include Ome Daiber, Wolf Bauer and Dr. Otto Trott; leaders in the formation of the Seattle Rescue Council in 1948.

Shimanski: What was the scariest moment for you in your rescue history?

Molenaar: Without a doubt, my most concerned rescue effort was on August 10, 1953, when we tried to lower thromboplebitis-crippled Art Gilkey down

storm-swept icy slopes of K2, from 25,000 feet to 24,000 feet, knowing we had to get him to lower to where there was more oxygen, which would require even greater technical problems when we would reach the steep rock ridges and gullies and short cliffs below.

Shimanski: Is there anything you'd want to say to the nearly 2,000 members of the Mountain Rescue Association?

Molenaar: As one who's mountain rescue experiences were of the bygone era of the 1940's-1960's, I doubtless learned more while preparing this little book than do the many whose heroic exploits continue through the present day, with their continuing and dedicated development and evolutions of search and rescue techniques and equipment.

About Dee Molenaar

Dee Molenaar served for a few years as a park ranger at Mount Rainier National Park where he climbed the mountain some fifty times via fifteen different routes, including three first ascents. He authored the award-winning book *The Challenge of Rainier*, a definitive work published in 1971 by The Mountaineers Books that is now in its ninth updated printing.

Dee has climbed peaks throughout the western United States, Alaska, Canada, the Alps, and the Himalayas, and has hiked in the Andes, New Zealand, and Antarctica. He participated in major expeditions to Mount St. Elias in Alaska in 1946 and in the ill-fated 1953 American expedition to K2 in the Karakoram Range, adjacent to the Himalayas.

Besides his ever-present cameras, an important part of Dee's climbing pack has been a small box of watercolors, with which he has painted mountain landscapes from elevations ranging from below sea level in Death Valley, California to a breathtaking 25,000 feet on K2. His paintings are in private collections throughout the United States, Canada, Alaska, Europe, New Zealand, China, and the former Soviet Union.

Dee and his wife, Colleen, live in southern Kitsap County, Washington, and have a daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren. In his retirement, Dee continues to work on art and map projects, in addition to writing and lecturing about his mountaineering travels and geologic observations.

MISSING AIRCRAFT SEARCH TEAM

Members of the recently formed private Missing Aircraft Search Team (MAST) have helped to find a Cessna N2700Q, missing near Sedona, Arizona since September 2006, and are calling for a national review of search and rescue procedures.

According to MAST spokesman Lew Toulmin of Silver Spring, Maryland, "MAST efforts in this case included devoting over 1000 hours of volunteer time to the search analysis, undertaking over 40 interviews, and reviewing data from the 2006 effort. We analyzed over 1,000,000 radar hits and undertook an aerial search of the subject area."

Said MAST member Robert Hyman of Washington, DC, "the real hero was the father of one of the victims, Phil Randolph of Phoenix. He kept the case alive by circulating pictures of his daughter Marcy, re-activating his pilot's license to search by air, and spending countless hours searching on the ground.

The Cessna carrying pilot Bill Westover and passenger Marcy Randolph took off from north Phoenix on 24 September 2006, and headed north. It disappeared off radar nine miles southwest of Sedona, and a three week search by the CAP and others never found a trace. According to Toulmin, in-depth analysis paid off: "MAST includes experts in search theory, SAR, aviation, radar analysis, communications and mountaineering. We developed 16 scenarios for the plane crash, refined them, and came up with three top candidates. The plane was actually found in our highest probability area."

Hyman says, "The key lead was uncovered by a MAST member who came across an overlooked fire report for the date of the crash. He was able to track down the hikers who made the report and interviewed them. On their own the hikers then went back to the area to get a better location for the fire, and stumbled across the crumpled aircraft. MAST immediately called the local Sheriff's Office, which has now confirmed the identities of the victims."

"Most people don't realize that this is a national problem. There are over 100 light aircraft missing since 1962, and we just want to help bring closure to these families," says Hyman.

Added Toulmin, "There is a major public policy angle here. It is clear from our study of the N2700Q case and the similar Steve Fossett case that there is a real problem with SAR in the US. Experts have told us that we are 20 years behind the Canadians in this area. Phil Randolph thinks better data integration is key, and he is absolutely right. We found in both cases that there were myriad problems with coordination, uneven SAR capacity, routine destruction of vital search data, and lack of "lessons learned." This is a major issue that has received little national attention, and we are calling on the Congress and FAA to examine this issue very closely. The problem is not with highly skilled volunteers, but with the overall balkanization, 'stovepipes' and lack of funding for the system."

For more information see www.n2700q.com/ or contact: Lew Toulmin, 301-775-6115 (c); 301-942-6062 (o)



SKI & MOUNTAIN TRAUMA CONFERENCE

November 13-14, 2009
Sun Valley Inn & Convention Center

This year's Saint Alphonsus Ski & Mountain Trauma Conference features Gordon Giesbrecht, PhD, dubbed "Professor Popsicle" by Outside magazine and "Dr. Cool" by Reader's Digest. Dr. Giesbrecht is a professor of thermophysiology at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. Gordon runs the Laboratory for Exercise and Environmental Medicine where he studies human responses to exercise/work in extreme environments.

Dr. Giesbrecht loves the outdoors and combines practical experience as a wilderness instructor with 20 years of human cold research. He has conducted hundreds of laboratory and field trials, which have led to publication of over 100 articles about cold physiology and pre-hospital care for human hypothermia. Gordon's passion to conduct research that makes a difference is stressed by his laboratory motto "Vitas Salvantes" which is Latin for "saving lives". Video of his work can be viewed at

In addition to Dr. Giesbrecht, the 2009 conference features sessions on Ethics & the Good Samaritan Law, Surviving the Unexpected Night Out, Current Practices in Management of Pediatric Head Injuries, Risk Assessment in Critical Situations, Foot & Ankle Trauma, Winter Sports Injuries, Trauma Case Reviews and more. Friday afternoon pre-conference workshops include Dislocation Management, Obstetric Trauma Simulation Lab, Field Trauma Human Simulation, Improvised Splinting, Avalanche Beacon Use, Supine Lateral Patient Transport with Enroute CPR, and Landing Zone Safety. Two tracks provide specialized information to physicians, nurses, and other ALS providers, and first responders and ski patrol members on appropriate care of trauma/accident victims in remote or winter recreation locations from the field into the Emergency Room. Mountaineer and author Lou Whittaker returns with *Mountaineering Tales - Part IV*.

To learn more, go to www.skimtntrauma.com or contact *The Meeting Network* at pmoloney@tmnevents.com or 208.385.9510, toll free 877.385.9510. Conference Registration will be available online only July 25 – November 12.

MEDICAL MUSINGS

By Chris Van Tilburg, MRA Medical Committee

I'm a huge fan of "light is right" or what I call, "take less, weigh less." The same concept can be applied to a medical kit. Do you need to bring every item on every rescue or on a one day weekend patrol on the mountain?

Here's what I carry in my radio pouch, which I carry for mountain rescue missions as well as when I'm on duty at our ski resort clinic. I'm essentially never without these three items.

Tape: my favorite is Johnson & Johnson waterproof one inch tape. You can improvise lots in the

mountain wilderness, like making splints ski poles. But tape is something nature doesn't have. Use it for minor injuries like cuts and blisters, or major trauma like large wounds or to secure a patient to a backboard. The waterproof tape is plastic coated, so it stick better and provides less friction than cloth medical tape.

Gloves and CPR mask: Remember, the first thing you do on a mission: protect yourself. Not a good idea to approach a bloody wound without personal protective gear. I carry the tiny pocket mask and two pair of nitrile gloves.

For more info on a weekend medical kit, the size that fits in a resealable freezer bag or a portable Advance Life Support kit, with endotracheal tubes, a laryngoscope, prescription medicines, check www.wms.org/publications/magazine.asp

NEW THINKING AND TALKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERS

by Jan Masaoka

"Men don't volunteer as much as women do," or so says conventional wisdom. But Susan Ellis counters: "Men volunteer a lot; they're just not called volunteers. They're called coaches and firemen!"

With new waves of stimulus package volunteers and retirement-age volunteers coming down the road, it's even more urgent that we change the way we talk -- and think -- about volunteers.

Old language (often said in apologetic tone): "We have only a few staff, so we have to rely on volunteers." New language: "Because we have so many volunteers, we don't need more than a few staff."

Old: "Our volunteers help us [staff] so much!" gushes a nonprofit staff person. New: "Volunteers help the patients so much!"

Old: "We have a couple of volunteers who help with the newsletter," said the director of a nonprofit legal services organization, adding, "Oh yeah! And some pro bono attorneys." New: "Our organization is lucky to have pro bono attorneys, pro bono writers, and pro bono graphics and layout staff."

Old: "We have 25 staff and 175 volunteers," said a museum director starting a speech. New: "We have 200 staff, of whom 175 are volunteers and 25 are paid."

To quote Susan Ellis again: **"Paul Revere made his living as a silversmith. But he's remembered for what he did as a volunteer."**

If you're a volunteer (messenger, revolutionary, American hero like Paul), print out this article and give it to the volunteers and staff you work with. Let's change not only the world, but the way we talk about it. --Jan Masaoka

Reprinted from www.BlueAvocado.org

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The day after he was rescued from a high mountain in Colorado, a subject posted a blog on a climber's blog site. His posting read as follows:

"I skied/attempted to ski from Torreys yesterday. You might be able to ski it now considering I set off a bunch of slides so most of the weak snow is gone."

MRA 2010 CONFERENCE



Juneau Mountain Rescue is proud to be the host team for the Mountain Rescue Association Spring Meeting in June of 2010. Juneau is the Capital City of Alaska and located in the heart of the Tongass rainforest, the largest temperate rainforest in North America.

Mountains Don't Care, But We Do

An Early History of Mountain Rescue in the Pacific Northwest and the Founding of the Mountain Rescue Association

By Dee Molenaar



Dee Molenaar, author of *The Challenge of Rainier*, has written fascinating accounts of the legendary mountain rescues and recoveries in the Pacific Northwest. In telling these tales of triumph and tragedy, he has also traced the formation and evolution of the mountain rescue groups that carried out these missions.

"The old master has done it again, pulling from personal experience and scholarly research, a vital and vibrant history of mountain rescue in the Pacific Northwest to celebrate the Mountain Rescue Association's 50th anniversary."

Tom Hornbein

"Mountains Don't Care, But We Do, by Dee Molenaar, is a must read for those who enjoy high adventure and want to know the history of the Mountain Rescue Association."

Jim Whittaker

"Mountains Don't Care, But We Do, is a modest way of saying 'thank you' to the hundreds of mountain rescue volunteers who have come before us. We hope that they would be as proud of today's groups as we are of them."

Charley Shimanski, President
Mountain Rescue Association

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