

MERIDIAN

October 2008

The Quarterly Publication of the Mountain Rescue Association



www.mra.org

What's New What's Now in the MRA

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FEMA Credentialing and Resource Typing
MRA Patch Headed to Space
MRA Participates in Steve Fossett Recovery



MOUNTAIN
RESCUE
ASSOCIATION

October 2008

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The Greatest Sacrifice

IN MEMORY OF BRUCE HARROLLE

August 14, 1972 – October 13, 2008



Arizona Department of Public Safety medic Bruce Harrolle, center, works to assist an injured patient during a 2004 mission. Photo courtesy Donna French, Desert Bloom Photography.

It is with great sadness that we report the line of duty death of Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Air Rescue's Officer-Paramedic Bruce Harrolle. Arizona DPS is an Ex-Officio member of the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA).

According to the *Officer Down Memorial Page*, "at about 2:40 p.m. on October 13th, the Department of Public Safety Air Rescue Ranger Helicopter based in Flagstaff responded to a request from the Sedona Fire Department and the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office to assist with a search and rescue mission of two stranded and dehydrated hikers on Bear Mountain in the Bell Rock area. At about 3:18 p.m., Officer/Paramedic Harrolle had loaded one hiker and was escorting the second patient into the chopper when he was struck by the helicopter's rotor blades and fatally injured. Both hikers were flown to safety."

Harrolle worked for 9 years with Arizona DPS, and 6 with the Air Rescue program. He was a recipient of the Department's prestigious *Distinguished Award* for his role in the Lewis Prison hostage situation in 2004. He was also the recipient of numerous letters of commendation for his role in various rescues and lifesaving operations.

He leaves behind a wife, Angela, and two young children, daughter Addison, age 4, and son Justice, age 2. He is also survived by both of his parents.

MRA Past President Tim Kovacs has worked with Harrolle. According to Kovacs, "Bruce was a fine man, a passionate paramedic, and a conscientious external load Air Rescue technician."

In an electronic Guest Book created for his wife and children, Harrolle's childhood friend Sarah Hawley said "I always used to tell Bruce that he was a super hero because he flew through the air and rescued complete strangers. Beneath that shirt I swear there was a huge B in a triangle. He saved everyone-from animals to people - no one was beneath his saving grace. I am comforted only by the fact that he died in the midst of doing something he loved. Beyond that, I am hurting terribly for his family and friends."

Bruce Harrolle made the ultimate sacrifice... he gave his life in service to two people he'd never met. There is no higher calling, and his place shall be among those who have given the ultimate expression of selflessness.

As the Meridian goes to press, MRA Honor Guard members are assembling to honor Harrolle at his memorial service.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

**By Charley Shimanski,
MRA President**



MRA President Charley Shimanski and a flight nurse exit a rescue helicopter after loading a patient at 12,500 feet.

As you know, Fran Sharp, our MRA president of the last two years, developed *Meridian* as a tool to inform us on issues pertaining to the MRA. Since then, *Meridian* has become a beloved and valued form of communication within our membership.

Today we engage in a “test-flight” of an all new *Meridian*. We are building upon the success of the *Meridian* by adding more content from across the MRA landscape and kicking it up a notch to a full-fledged quarterly publication.

Simply put, we have no set format, but we do have a very important objective. We will use the *Meridian* to bring you, the MRA member, even more in touch with what’s happening with your MRA.

Sound like is a test flight without a flight plan? It is a bit “out there,” but then, we are a community of rescue mountaineers. We can handle “out there.”

As such, we’ll be depending on YOU to help us with ideas and content. This is YOUR publication, and we’ll count on YOU make it all that it can be.

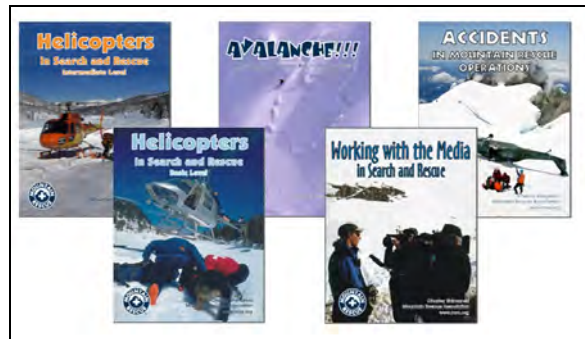
Finally, I want to acknowledge our MRA colleagues with Arizona Department of Public Safety who mourn the death of Bruce Harrolle, a veteran paramedic and flight crew member who gave his life in the line of duty on October 13. Our collective hearts go out to Bruce’s family at this horrible time.

Be safe out there.

IN SEARCH OF...

The MRA is in search of an editor for the *Meridian*. Responsibilities would include developing and acquiring content and producing a quarterly product. Care to step up? If you are interested, please contact Charley Shimanski at Shimanski@speedtrail.net

MRA TRAINING REVISIONS



The MRA’s training programs, available at www.mra.org, will undergo extensive revisions in the next several days. The new updates will include full color photography and illustrations and will soon be accompanied by PowerPoint instructor’s programs as well.

The following programs have been revised so far:

- Helicopters in SAR Operations – Basic
- Helicopters in SAR Operations – Intermediate
- Accidents in Mountain Rescue Operations
- AVALANCHE!!!
- Search and Rescue for Outdoor Leaders
- Risks in Mountain Rescue Operations
- Situational Awareness in Search and Rescue

STAY CONNECTED

Did you know that there are a number of key ways that you can stay connected to the MRA?

We have a general ListServ available to any MRA team member, and an Administrative ListServ. In addition, we have a Members’ Forum

General ListServ

The General ListServ is for MRA team members to share ideas, questions, and thoughts. It is, on occasion, used by MRA leadership as well to promote something or ask the membership for feedback.

More than 400 MRA team members are subscribed to this important ListServ. To join the General ListServ, go to <http://lister.mra.org/mailman/listinfo/mra> for more information on how to subscribe, unsubscribe or change your personal information.

You can also look at prior postings to the ListServ once you establish a personal password.

Administrative ListServ

The Administrative ListServ is for communication to MRA team members from MRA leadership ONLY. This list has more than 1,000 MRA team members subscribed, which is most of the MRA team members' email address

The Administrative ListServ was developed to increase the amount of communication from the MRA leadership to our members. To join the Administrative ListServ, make sure your own team has your email information, as the ListServ is created annually through the lists provided by member teams.

This MERIDIAN is emailed to BOTH the General ListServ and the Administrative ListServ... which explains why you may receive it twice.

The Forum

The MRA forum was set up to allow discussions of various MRA-related topics to take place online.

Topics range from equipment to rigging, medical to FEMA information. MRA members have the ability to create new conversation topics within these general discussion topics. Each user can control how they are notified by the forum. For example, you can choose to be notified when others respond to a topic that you are contributing towards.

Unlike other communication tools, the forum allows you to see a long and diverse history of topics and opinions all in one place. Check this tool out by logging into the MRA member site and clicking on the forum link. A separate user login and password is required.

OUR 50TH AT MT. HOOD

In 1959 a group of visionary mountain rescuers met at Timberline Lodge on Oregon's Mt Hood and formed the Mountain Rescue Association. In June of 2009 we'll be back at Mt Hood celebrating our 50th anniversary.

Please join Portland Mountain Rescue at the beautiful and historic Timberline Lodge for the

MRA's Spring Conference and Anniversary Gala. This year we'll be featuring a snow and ice theme so plan on spending five days on and around the glaciers and summer snowfields climbing, learning new skills, meeting fellow rescuers from around the world and honoring the MRA's history.



In addition to the conference, there is so much to do in Oregon at this time of year it's hard to even mention all of the possibilities. It's an excellent opportunity for a vacation and we'll have helpful assistants who can get you connected to the best the area has to offer.



Portland Mountain Rescue will host the 50th Anniversary MRA Celebration in June of 2009 at the historic Timberline Lodge on the flanks of Mt. Hood

Below is a chronological summary of the activities that are planned:

June 23-25 (Tue, Wed, Thurs)

Pre conference at Historic Cloud Cap Inn: Limited to 20 attendees and instructed by Timberline Mountain Guides. This is an intensive session covering glacier travel and self rescue techniques. Food and lodging will be provided by the Crag Rats at Cloud Cap Inn located on the remote north side of Mt Hood. Field exercises will be held on the Eliot Glacier in the Mt Hood Wilderness.

June 25 (Thursday) and June 28 (Sunday)

These days are set aside for climbs of Mt Hood, Mt St Helens, and Mt Adams or climbing at Smith Rock State Park. Although these climbs are not advertised as a part of the conference (due to Wilderness special use permit reasons) our friends from our local MRA teams have agreed to organize these climbs for our MRA friends.

June 25, Thursday afternoon and evening:

Registration at the Ravens Nest in Historic Timberline Lodge. There will be vendor displays and beverages available. Plan to stay and socialize. And regale us with stories from your day's climb.

June 26, Friday

This will be our classroom and field sessions: Our theme is ice and snow and we'll have a variety of topics to choose from. The field sessions will be in close proximity to the lodge so you'll be able to mix and match classroom and field venues. Tentative sessions include: comparing avalanche transceivers; RECCO, snow anchors, crevasse rescue, strategic shoveling, glacier travel skills, wilderness medical skills sessions. In the evening we'll hold a heritage panel discussion featuring some of our founding members and other long time MRA members as they recollect the early days of the MRA. Following the heritage panel we'll have a BBQ at the newly restored outdoor amphitheater at the Lodge. Friday evening's entertainment will be a video contest featuring video submitted by MRA members of their team's trainings or missions or their personal adventures. Please encourage your creative teammates to get their cameras out and start filming as we've got some outstanding prizes at stake.

Saturday June 27:

The Rescue Rendezvous is a multi station, outdoor rescue skills event. We'll create mixed teams of attendees from all over and send you off to meet the challenges. You'll have a chance to solve problems, teach, learn and share experiences with fellow rescuers. Saturday evening is the banquet and along with major awards and VIP introductions we'll have

the world premier of the new MRA sponsored video about the formation of the MRA. Rounding out Saturday's activities will be a new event, "Rockin' with Rocky" beginning after the banquet presentations we hope you'll stay at the Lodge for some dancing, socializing and free beer.

Sunday is the business meeting or another chance to climb some of the region's best peaks with our MRA friends.

MRA ASSISTS IN STEVE FOSSETT RECOVERY



MRA Members from China Lake Mountain Rescue Group take a break between assignments. Photo courtesy Bob Rockwell.

MRA teams from California were requested by Madera County and the California Office of Emergency Services to participate in the search of the missing aircraft piloted by Steve Fossett. Members of several California SAR teams as well as Yosemite National Park hiked in 6 miles from Devils Postpile trail-head, near Mammoth Lakes, to the rugged site of the crash at the 10,000 foot level.

China Lake Mountain Rescue was present on Thursday and Friday to aid in the recovery amid deteriorating weather conditions. The following rendition was provided to Meridian by Bob Rockwell of China Lake Mountain Rescue Group...

The crash site had just been found, and the Madera County Sheriff's Office requested that CLMRG and other SAR teams go in and search for all possible evidence and remains. Dan (Operation Leader),

Daryl, and I went for the first day, and for the next day it was Dan, Jeff, Martha and me.

On day 1 we hiked the six miles and 2500' vertical to the crash site, with the last several hundred feet being a very steep talus chute which not too many searchers were able to negotiate. Those of us who got there concentrated on a fine-toothed search of the crash site and immediate surroundings, then were flown out by a National Guard Blackhawk at the end of the day.

On day 2 we got a helo ride in Yosemite's Bell SAR helo, with our main focus a line search from the wreckage to where the shirt had been found, 0.6 miles away. We searched carefully to that site, then shifted downhill 100 yards and searched a parallel track back to the wreckage. Once there, we did another detailed search of the area. Because of threatening weather and the concern base camp had for our safety, we were flown out around 3 pm.

Inyo SAR had an analogous assignment from the wreckage to the site where the ID was found, and back.

While we were on our second day's search assignment, Yosemite SAR spent the day collecting and loading up the wreckage to be flown out by a contract helo. I was amazed to see how clean they left the site, with only a few pieces about the size of a silver dollar or smaller remaining. Any "Lookie Loo's" hoping to get there and find something to sell on eBay will be sorely disappointed.



The engine of Fossett's aircraft had travelled the farthest. Photo courtesy Bob Rockwell.

In response to my specific questions, the Madera County deputy sheriff who was running the search

said that posting of pictures showing no body parts or personal effects is OK.

MRA PATCH HEADS TO SPACE

As this edition of Meridian goes to press, Shuttle Astronaut John Grunsfeld is preparing for his sixth journey to space aboard the Shuttle Atlantis, a flight during which he will also engage in three space walks to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.



Full time NASA astronaut and part time climber John Grunsfeld, gives a "thumbs-up" after a seven hour space walk to replace the Hubble Space Telescope starboard solar array. Photo courtesy John Grunsfeld and NASA.

Among Grunsfeld's personal items on the flight will be an MRA patch, provided by MRA President Charley Shimanski, a long time friend and colleague of Grunsfeld. The patch, which will travel millions of miles above planet Earth before its journey ends, will be on display at the MRA 50th Anniversary Celebration at Mt. Hood.

Grunsfeld is also an accomplished climber. He summited Denali and Aconcagua, and can lead 5.10 climbs – although he claims to be able to lead 5.13 in zero gravity.

In a recent article in Outside, Grunsfeld was asked if he ever gets bored in space. His answer? "On my most recent trip up Denali, there were these huge seracs and unbelievable vistas, and I was thinking, 'I don't have to fly in space. There are so many beautiful places on Earth...' Then I get back into city life and I'm like, 'Yeah, I need to go to space again.'"



A NASA flag flies next to Grunsfeld's camp on his climb of Denali. Photo courtesy National Geographic Society.

With the support of The American Alpine Club, Grunsfeld will also take the 9x12 Zeiss Maximar B folding camera used by Bradford Washburn in his famous photographs of the Mount McKinley Range. The camera is the same one that Washburn took on his 1937 expedition to Canada's St. Elias Mountains.

2008 SPRING CONFERENCE

The 2008 MRA Spring Conference took place June 19-22 in the beautiful hills around Stowe, Vermont. Hosted by the very gracious and friendly members of Stowe Mountain Rescue, this was the first MRA conference to take place on the east coast.



Highline exercise during the 2008 Spring Conference in Stowe. Photo by Neil Van Dyke

Thursday, June 19

Day one began with numerous options, including a day long course on swift water rescue, bouldering and rock climbing, and a series of lectures at the beautiful Golden Eagle Resort.

An hour-long session called "Gizmos, Gears and Gadgets" gave sponsors a chance to discuss their equipment. Suppliers included Petzl, CMC Rescue Equipment, RECCO Avalanche Rescue System, Sterling Rope and Adventure Medical Kits.

Day one finished with a BBQ in the hospitality tent and a special showing of the BBC production "Duel with An Teallach". This hour long docu-drama was introduced by Hamish MacInnes and tells the story of three climbers of various experience who set out to climb the peak An Teallach on the west coast of Scotland in 1966. The two lesser experienced climbers fell and the more experienced climber had to secure his two friends while he went for help (these were the days before the mobile phone). Unfortunately, when the local mountain rescue team arrived the two climbers had succumbed to their injuries and the elements.



New York State Forest Rangers demonstrate their hoisting technique. Photo by Charley Shimanski

Friday, June 20

The second day of the conference provided a number of outdoor workshops, located in and around the nearby Mt. Mansfield ski area. Topics included Low Angle/Scree Evacuation, Navigation, Highline Rescue, and Petzl Hardware.

During the lunch hour between the morning and afternoon sessions, participants were offered a tour of the Vermont State Police mobile command post,

watch a K-9 air scent demonstration and see the New York State Forest Rangers demonstrate their unique helicopter hoist system.

The Friday evening event was one to remember. Participants toured the Vermont Ski Museum, including a portion dedicated to the Tenth Mountain Division. After the visit to the Ski Museum, participants headed to the Stowe Town Hall theatre for a great buffet dinner. This was followed by the entertainment highlight of the weekend... local comedian Rusty DeWees who performs a one-man show called "The Logger".



Comedian Rusty DeWees – "The Logger"
Photo by Neil VanDyke

All returned to the conference hotel for the open bar, which lead to a very entertaining Petzl Headlamp Search Competition.

Saturday, June 21

The third day of the conference consisted of an adventure tour on Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak at 4,393 ft. The tour consisted of a 5.5 mile hike combined with three skill stations:

- Station 1 – Five golf balls and fifteen wooden golf tees were hidden in an area 20 m wide by 50 m long. Each team was given 15 minutes to find as many as possible.
- Station 2 – Teams were timed to setup a belay system and lower an injured subject 100 m down a low angle descent, then across, and back up an adjacent slope.
- Station 3 – On one of the local hiking trails, the trail cuts through a huge boulder that has split in two. Nicknamed the "lemon squeeze", teams were timed to transport a litter through the obstacle.

Saturday Awards Banquet

Saturday evening commenced in the hospitality tent with a Cocktail Reception and Moose Cookout sponsored by RECCO. As usual, an empty dinner setting was kept near the entrance to the dinner to remember the fifteen US mountain rescuers who have died during US MR missions between 1925 and 2000. Thanks, Tim Kovacs and the MRA Honor Guard for reminding us all of their sacrifice.

Following the dinner was the MRA Awards Ceremony, which commenced with the ceremonial "posting of the colors" by the MRA Honor Guard (www.mountainrescuehonorguard.org).

After several awards were bestowed, keynote speaker David "Heavy" Whalley took the stage. Heavy has just retired from the RAF Mountain Rescue Service after 35 years. He's also a past chair of the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland and is their current Stats Officer. Needless to say, Heavy gave a very interesting talk about his mountain rescue experience in the RAF and in Scotland.

Back to the bar, which led to Rick Lorenz's rendition of a Clancy Brothers classic to honor the visit of Paul Whiting from Ireland. Following that, a zip line took the place of the traditional rappelling off the rooftop. (After all, the conference hotel is owned by the family of MRA Vice President Neil VanDyke).

Sunday, June 22

The final day of the conference was the MRA Annual Meeting and election of officers. See the MRA web site for the minutes of that meeting.

Fran Sharp, the outgoing president, was thanked with a rousing ovation. Fran was only the second female president of the MRA (the first female president was Judy Hanna in 1980). Fran passed reigns of the organization to the incoming president - Charley Shimanski. A nice tradition took place as Fran presented Charley with the MRA compass, to help Charley keep the MRA on the track set out by its founders.

This report was filed by Paul Whiting; Development Officer of the Irish Mountain Rescue Association – with some editing by Charley Shimanski... after all, in Ireland, the word "stretcher" is a verb. While we say "transport a litter" Paul says "stretcher a casualty."

RESOURCE TYPING AND CREDENTIALING

By Mike Vorachek

The MRA is a member of a national working group that is refining the current FEMA Resource Types and developing individual credentialing criteria for SAR. The basic concept behind this project is to identify a standardized approach for identification of teams and their members that can be deployed in time of disaster and support federal, state, and local response efforts.

Envision for a moment a major earthquake affecting an area such as Yellowstone National Park at the height of the summer tourist season, where destruction of bridges or triggering of landslides cut off campgrounds and trails, stranding hundreds of campers and hikers in the back country. Or consider the Salt Lake valley where there are numerous housing developments and recreation areas located on slopes and ridges that could be cut off from normal Fire Department based rescue services, which might be overwhelmed with building collapses in the downtown areas. In both cases, SAR teams capable of operating in rugged terrain under austere conditions might be requested by the Incident Command structure, especially where there is a prolonged response and relief for local resources is needed.

By having a standardized resource type, i.e., a Mountain SAR or a Wilderness SAR team, with varying degrees of capability (Type I, II, III, or IV); requesting agencies will be able to assess the situation and determine what category and type would be best suited to respond to the operation. The basic set of Resource Types has been established for SAR and can be viewed at <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/rm/rt.shtm>. Resource typing is voluntary and normally accomplished by determining what category(s) and type your team is capable of; and notifying your local and/or state emergency management or homeland security agency.

MRA Policy 105.1 is the basic framework that we envision teams will use to meet the FEMA Mountain and Wilderness SAR typing criteria. We recognize that our teams are unique in that we tend to operate in some of the most extreme environments, and most teams have taken on the challenge of becoming accredited to regional requirements under Policy 105. As a body, we have the ability to provide a tremendous capability to respond to major disasters

such as noted above, and Policy 105.1 was developed to bridge the gap between region accreditation and national standards criteria.

The FEMA working group is currently developing standards for credentialing of individual SAR responders. This represents a tremendous challenge due to the diversity of roles and responsibilities within the overall SAR community. The MRA is supporting the working group to examine what knowledge, skills, and attributes would be needed for those members responding with a Mountain or Wilderness SAR team. Again, Policy 105.1 contains the basic framework that we feel is appropriate for teams that wish become involved, while allowing the team some leeway in addressing what they feel fits their organizational structure.

We can only hope that this effort results in the SAR community being better prepared for catastrophic incidents - which we hope never occur. All of us have seen the graphic images of suffering and despair that accompany a disaster or major emergency. Most of us have at one time or another desired to help, but were not sure how to go about it. Some have felt the frustration of volunteering to help, only to be turned away. The SAR working group is addressing some of the issues that are going to have to be resolved in order to improve the nation's ability to respond to disasters. As the largest representative of SAR teams in the United States, the MRA is working to provide as much input as possible to this endeavor.

AT THE HELM OF NPS EMERGENCY SERVICES

This past June, the National Park Service (NPS) appointed Dean A. Ross to serve as its latest Branch Chief of Emergency Services. The NPS Branch Chief supports Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Search and Rescue (SAR) for the entire National Park Service. Dean takes over from Dan Pontbriand, who returned to the field when he took an assignment as Sequoia District Ranger, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks.

Dean Ross has an eclectic history in many areas; but it is the combination of his previous experience that makes him an impressive choice for the top NPS emergency management post.

Ross has a professional career in terrestrial and satellite communications, and built a successful business in the field, before selling his business to pursue other interests.

Those “other interests” are too wide and varied to list each of them here, but suffice it to say, he’s developed a resume that looks like a “Who’s Who” of emergency programs.

Dean has been involved in pre-hospital EMS since the 1990’s – but it was the tragic events of September 11th 2001 that brought it all together.

After the 9-11 attack on the World Trade Center, Ross worked at ground zero for many months. This assignment illustrated some serious challenges to make public health and emergency response his key focus.

Ross then moved to the nation’s capital. Starting at the Office of Emergency Response, he was ultimately called out by Secretary Thompson himself to design and build the Security Operations Center at HHS. The project took just five months, and while the final cost was \$3.7 million, that was \$1.3 million under budget.

After Ross built the Center, Secretary Thompson made him Director of it; providing a key role in the response to Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the beginning of what would become a nation-wide effort to prepare for a potential pandemic.

During this assignment, Dean was requested by the World Health Organization to collaborate and coordinate the development of their command center in Geneva, Switzerland. His operations center designs and management concepts are now in 17 operations center around the world.

Completing that assignment, Ross went on to serve as Deputy Director of Emergency Services for three years at the Indian Health Service.

While he is a diver, a pilot, a firefighter, and a technical rescuer, Dean Ross is the first non-Law Enforcement Ranger to take the position at the National Park Service.

No stranger to the politics that plague agencies inside the beltway, Dean Ross describes himself as a man who likes to empower, not put up stop signs. “If you’re following me,” he says, “you’d better hold on to my belt.”

No kidding. Already, under his leadership of 90 days, Dean Ross has established the National Park Service as the “go to” agency for the new National Response Framework – a program designed to mobilize federal personnel in disaster response under Emergency Support Function #9. Ross and

staff from parks across the nation recently demonstrated the value of Park Service Rangers in disaster response during the 2008 hurricane season. “We’re light, we’re fast, we’re mobile... and you don’t need two semi-trucks behind us to carry our gear.”

Although he commands an office of one, Ross’ job is a critically important element of the National Park Service (NPS). He is responsible for the EMS program for the entire National Park Service as well as the SAR program – which includes technical rescue, swiftwater and land SAR. Considering the NPS performs 4,500 SAR operations a year, this is quite an assignment. But spend just five minutes with him, and you’ll quickly see that he is up to the task.

If you’re ever in Washington D.C. stop by to visit Dean, and take him out for a cup of coffee. But one piece of advice... hold on to his belt.

MRA FILM PROJECT

By Rick Lorenz

In the fall of 2007 a 19 minute video was made of the annual meeting of IKAR, the International Commission of Alpine Rescue. It was later shown at the January 2008 MRA meeting and the DVD was distributed free of charge to all volunteer mountain rescue teams in North America. The video was made possible by three commercial sponsors and was produced by International Research Associates (INREAS) of Tacoma, Washington. At the MRA annual meeting in Stowe last summer, a proposal was made for INREAS to produce a DVD of early MRA history in the Pacific Northwest, including the founding of MRA in June of 1959. The DVD would be shown at Mount Hood at the 50th Anniversary celebration next summer, and 200 copies would be provided to the MRA. The proposal was accepted with the understanding that the project would be completed at no cost to MRA.

A private foundation provided funding for the MRA History Documentary last July, filming was completed in September, editing and production are now underway. Key people in the history of MRA were interviewed, including Dick Pooley (the first MRA president), Dee Molenaar, George Sainsbury, and Wolf Bauer, one of the founders of Seattle Mountain Rescue Council. Additional filming was conducted at Mount Hood in July at a reunion of some of the original “founders” of MRA, including 96 year old Hank Lewis, a legendary figure who

established ski patrol on Mount Hood in the 1920's. Historic video footage made in Bavaria in 1948 has been obtained for inclusion in the DVD, showing European influence in the early development of mountain rescue in the USA.

The MRA documentary video will focus on people and events in the Pacific Northwest leading up to the June 1959 meeting at Mount Hood, and will conclude with a summary of "MRA today" featuring interviews with current MRA leadership and some recent video footage and photos.

Final production of the video will be completed at INREAS facilities in New York City, with original music by Kenseth in San Diego. A preview of the DVD will be shown at the MRA meeting in Salt Lake City in January. Rick Lorenz of Olympic Mountain Rescue will be contacting MRA teams for recent digital photos that might be included in the final portion of the video.

"MOUNTAINS DON'T CARE, BUT WE DO"

By Rick Lorenz

Renowned author, climber, artist, and retired National Park Ranger Dee Molenaar has agreed to write a book on the early years of mountain rescue in the Northwest, with a focus on events leading up to the signing of the Constitution of the Mountain Rescue Association in June 1959. Dee participated in some early rescues and attended many of the original meetings of rescuers in 1958 and 1959.

The planned book would be roughly 200 pages in length, in similar format to his book *"The Challenge of Rainier"* which is now in its ninth printing.

A tentative chapter includes the follows:

1. The Northwest from the 1890's to 1950's, the mountains and the physical setting.
2. Some celebrated early rescues, the Brothers, Mount Rainier and Mount Hood.
3. The founding of the original teams into the 1950's, including Seattle MRC (1948) and the Crag Rats in Oregon in 1926.
4. Steps leading to Mount Hood: The need for organization in early operations.
5. Profiles of the key people in Washington State and Oregon.

6. Mount Hood June 1959: The founding of the MRA.
7. The first years of MRA, early rescues, including McKinley 1960.
8. Epilogue: The organization grows up, with a profile of the current MRA.

The draft book manuscript is currently undergoing evaluation by publishers, with proposed publication hoped for the spring of 2008, and copies available for distribution at Mount Hood in June 2009.

Rick Lorenz of Olympic Mountain Rescue is the chair of the publication workgroup and he welcomes offers of assistance in submitting material or reviewing the manuscript. Please let him know at fmlorenz1@aol.com.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

At our upcoming Business Meeting in Salt Lake City, MRA delegates will be tasked with helping s develop a long term strategic plan.

The Strategic Planning Task Force members are Past Presidents Tim Cochran, Rocky Henderson, Monty Bell and Fran Sharp as well as MRA President Charley Shimanski and Vice President Neil Van Dyke. Stay tuned for more information about this important effort.

The Winter Business Meeting will be held on January 9-11, 2009 at the Country Inn and Suites in West Valley, Utah, just fifteen minutes from the Salt Lake City Airport. Stay tuned for registration information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2008 International Technical Rescue Symposium, Nov. 6-10, Albuquerque, NM

2009 Winter MRA Meeting
January 9-11, 2009 - Salt Lake City, Utah

2009 NASAR National Search and Rescue Conference

May 28-30, 2009 - Little Rock, Arkansas

2009 50th Anniversary MRA Meeting
June 26-28, 2009 - Mount Hood, Oregon



The Mountain Rescue Association is an organization dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education

www.mra.org