

Number 197

*Bergtrage*60 1948
2008*January 2010***FROM THE CHAIRMAN - DOUG HUTTON**

In keeping with the inconsistency and unfairness that has been the hallmark of my tenure, I lied last month about last month's column being my last. This, I assure you, will be it. I certainly hope that everyone had a nice holiday season, whatever it may mean to you. It was nice to re-connect with some folks I don't get to see often enough.

First I'd like to share a note that came to me a couple of days ago.

*"On Oct 4, 1956 your organization went into action on behalf of me and my fellow aviators after we experienced a midair collision over Mount Olympus. I have always had fond memories of your efforts to rescue us, and a deep appreciation of the talent, skill, and courage of those of you who man such efforts. Eternally grateful,
Jim B. Paschall., LTC USAF Ret, Paradise, TX"*

Wow, that's all I can say about that. I sent him a note thanking him for remembering us and for his service to our country. Needless to say, we will keep him on distribution for the 'trage for some time to come.

As I leave the chairmanship I have to say it's been a great two years. As I said last month this doesn't mean I'm going away. My plans are to stay as operationally active as possibly and to continue to attend and participate in board activities as best I can. There are a lot of issues that I am very passionate about and at the top of the list is preserving the integrity and usefulness of our organization. I look forward to many more years of contribution.

See you in the hills! = Doug Hutton

MISSIONS IN DECEMBER 2009**December 26, 2009****Hiker Missing on Mt. Si/Mt. Tenerife (Turnaround)**

The mission paged out at 1228 hrs for a missing 60 year old male hiker who separated from his party in the Mount Si / Mount Tenerife area (Kamikaze Falls) area. Base camp was initially planned to be at the Mount Si trailhead. The Subject was contacted by cell phone by the patrol deputy and it was confirmed that the Subject was reunited with his party. The mission was turned around at 1302 hrs.

SMR PERSONNEL: 5 SMR HOURS: 3 SMR MILES: 56

This was the only activity that SMR was called out for during the month of December 2009. The total number of missions for 2009 is 71 with over 1260 hours and 12,114 driving miles. An average response of four members

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responded to each mission with an average of 18 hours per mission. The higher number of 2009 missions is partly due to improved reporting and records keeping and includes 9 "turn arounds" and 8 which had no SMR response. Compare this to 2008 which had a total of only 47 missions which however had 1,665 hours and about the same driving miles and to the 2007 total of 54 missions with 1,799 hours. Members may read all the mission reports and statistics on the "members only" section of the SMR Website at <http://seattlemountainrescue.org/>

EVENTS CALENDAR

INTOWN OPERATIONS LEADER TRAINING: We will do the ITOL Training twice. Once on Tue, Jan 19 (7:00pm) and once on Thu, Jan 21 (6:00pm, just before the Board meeting). It is important that everyone gets a chance to ask questions and learn about the responsibilities of being an In Town Operations Leader (ITOL).

- Tue, Jan 19, 2010 at 7:00pm
Fire Station 1, Bellevue
766 Bellevue Way SE (Downtown/West Bellevue)
- Thu, Jan 21, 2010 at 6:00pm (just before the Board meeting)
Fire Station 9, Bellevue
12412 SE 69th Way (Newcastle Way)

Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP/BOARD MEETING: Same time and place starting at 7:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month on January 21, 2010. The meeting will be at Fire Station 9 in Bellevue. This is SMR's regular monthly meeting which is not just for the Board Members who are required to attend. All members are asked to please attend and help SMR conduct its business. New members are encouraged to attend a meeting as soon as they are accepted in the Unit. Meetings are sometimes preceded by a social hour at 6:00 p.m. Locations will be announced on your pagers. Please come, especially if you are a new or prospective member. Submit agenda items to Chairperson Doug Hutton prior to the meeting.

SNOWMOBILE TRAINING: SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2010.

For those that are interested, we plan to conduct a more comprehensive training session over the standard Banderera plan, with this coming training to be conducted at Tinkham-Hansen Creek (Exit 47 off I-90) in a manner where participants will receive 90 dedicated minutes of riding in each session. Instead of just going up and down the flightline, we are going to have riders placed in more of a mission-real scenario with some types of training to include hill travel, getting unstuck, turning in tight areas, rules of the road and navigation.

However, in order to do this (and not have people waiting in a queue while others are out and about), I would like to kindly request that if you are planning on attending, I need your name NLT 10 January so I can develop slots and work with those that will be there on convenient times.

So- please reply to me (doug.pierson@gmail.com) with confirmation by 10 January and I'll work to get a schedule together as time grows closer and communicate with you directly with comprehensive training plans.

Doug Pierson, Snowmobile Chair



1948 - 2010 OUR HISTORY



Last month, our Chairman was pleasantly surprised to hear from a voice from our past when he received a note from LTC Jim Paschall (USAF Ret). Back in October 4, 1956, the then Lieutenant Paschall was a radar observer on one of two Air Force F-89 Scorpion jets that crashed in mid-air over Mt. Olympus. Paschall and two other crewmen parachuted from an altitude of 25,000'. Paschall landed somewhere in the Upper Goldie River drainage made it out to a trail on the Elwha River then headed up the Hayes River and over Hayden Pass reaching civilization near Brinnon after 25-30 miles of hiking down the Dosewallups. He phoned his base and a helicopter with Otto Trott on board was sent to pick him up and return him to Port Angeles. The search for wreckage and the one missing pilot continued several more days but that's a long story you will have to read by opening the Nov 1956 Newsletter at

http://seattlemountainrescue.org/newsletters/newsletter_1956_11.pdf

Details on the Scorpion jets at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F-89_Scorpion



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1960 – 50 YEARS AGO.....Paul Williams was elected Chairman of the MRC. In Jan 1960, 35 members of Tacoma and Olympic MR had a joint simulated training near Bremerton involving four parachutists.

1970 – 40 YEARS AGO.....Jerry Newgard was elected Chairman. Two new Motorola PT200 two watt radios were purchased and the MRC "radio base station" was moved to a City of Seattle site at 86th & Roosevelt NE. The new MRC safety film "By Nature's Rules" was finished.

1980 – 30 YEARS AGO.....Jeff Hanna was elected Chairman and Al Errington took over as newsletter editor. The MRC formed a new special response team called the "Cold Rescue Group" to augment the Fast Action Response Team (FART). In 1979, the FART was only involved in 3 of the 22 field operations that year. Also in January, 15 members and guests enjoyed a winter campout and training session at Ollalie Meadows.

1990 - 20 YEARS AGO..... Rob Jackson was elected Chairman to replace Greg Prothman who took over as Chair of the FART Team after two terms as Chairman.

THIS N' THAT - HEARD AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

ONE BIG TREE....Think about a 'big tree'. The Pratt Valley has "one". A friend took a picture from over two miles away. And it's readily seen, standing easily over it's neighbors. It was originally measured at 250 feet tall, but some time ago, it lost about 82 feet of it's top. Still at about 170 feet tall, there it is. It may have been left by original loggers, maybe because it was a broken off top, or perhaps too big and they thought they would get it later. It's accessible by a faint trail off of the main Pratt trail. Which can be reached in summer by wading the Middle Fork river. Or soon, the US Forest Service will reopen the 'along river portion' trail that goes down river from Middle Fork Trail Head.



Looking east from the CCC road, this photo again looks into the Pratt Valley. A close up is shown to the right



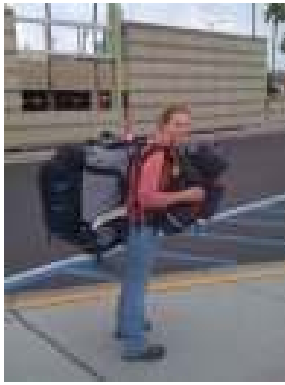
Look closely at this zoom photo (or even better, open it up and zoom in more) and you can see the distinctive Pratt Valley giant tree. The tree is almost dead-center at the bottom of the distinct brushy area.

This picture is provided and copyrighted by [http://middleforkgiants.com./](http://middleforkgiants.com/) Pretty impressive. One can even see it from Google Earth, by noting it's sun shadow. (Bill Davis)

THE "GLOBETROTTER AWARD" HAS TO GO TO DOUG P.....looking at Facebook, looks like at least for the past six months Doug has been a frequent flyer and has been to far off places on business such as Stonehenge, London, Bath and Salisbury in the UK, the Great Pyramids in Egypt, the Ice Hotel in Jukkasjavi, Sweden, Kiev and Dnepropetrovsk in Ukraine, Zurich, Amsterdam, Tokyo, Borneo and probably a whole lot of other places. In July and August he even managed to squeeze in Rainier summits and do a jump from a C-130. Doug is one hard guy to keep up with.

KECIA AND DOUG C. ARE MOVING TO HIGH PLACES.....We are looking forward to having next Christmas at Kecia and Doug's new home under construction in the Uplands at North Bend at the foot of Rattlesnake Mountain. One sign of progress is that they are already the proud owners of a new "porta pottie" on their property.





PHX AIRPORT DUFFLE RODEO..... Looks like our member Brianna H. is getting ready for some heavy travelling from this FB photo. We know that wherever she is going will be a climbing destination. Way to go Brianna! Brianna is our youngest and most active member.

OUR TRAINING CHAIR BREE L. STRIKES A POSE..... in December, "We didn't summit Chair but we did summit the Thumbtack."



TRACKING IN AFRICA?..... Kathleen D. took a break from fighting crime and was in Samburu National Park in Kenya's northern frontier district in October - where it's HOT and DRY!!! :-). Here's her favorite warrior, Kwenia, wearing her Berkenstocks and she's wearing his sandals made from old tires.



POLARBEAR PLUNGE..... Although we don't yet have a photo to prove it, rumor has it that our Chairman did the Polarbear Plunge someplace on New Year's Day - this we gotta see !!!!!

DOUG S. CLIMBED CHAIR PEAK IN DECEMBER.....



Went back up to Chair to climb an even cooler line with Cameron. Climbing was awesome and steep. Enlarge the photo for a better view.

FACELESS IN NORTH BEND..... The Editor gave fair warning and had to resort to researching Facebook for this month's Heard Around The Campfire. But don't expect to see his face here.



SEATTLE MOUNTAIN RESCUE



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