

# THE CALLOUT



Spring 2024  
vol. 2



## Dear Friends and Supporters:

I recently attended the Swiftwater Rescue Tech certification weekend with our Swiftwater Rescue Team. Over three days, I saw new and experienced members tackle challenging tasks together, fostering both competence and camaraderie. This experience highlighted the dedication required to be an effective Search & Rescue team and reminded me why I'm honored to be part of PNWSAR.

PNWSAR's success relies on many moving parts, including logistics, administration, training, partnerships, and recruitment, all supporting our mission of search and rescue. This year, we've been involved in major rescues, such as aiding two men near Wahtum Lake, two women stranded in the Gorge, and a family stuck above the Salmon River.

Beyond ground searchers, we have specialty teams requiring extra training. Our Marine Patrol Team has grown significantly since the Hood River County Sheriff's Office requested our support on the Columbia River. With an older inflatable boat, we assisted over 80 people. Thanks to a generous grant from the Columbia Gorge Wind & Water Association and other supporters, we've ordered a new, improved boat for 2025, enhancing our river support capabilities. Building on the Marine Patrol's success, we've expanded to land-based patrols with our Trail Running and Mountain Bike Teams, allowing us to be closer to emergencies and engage with the outdoor community.

These activities are made possible by the contributions of our nearly 100 unpaid professionals, who provide their own gear, and the support of our financial backers and the Hood River County Sheriff's Office. We remain committed to supporting the outdoor community of the Pacific Northwest.

*Jeff Tinnin*

**Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue President**

**Letter from the President**

**2024 Rescue Highlights**

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**Member Spotlights:**

Craig Bachman

Dani Osborne

Brandon Widder

**Thank You to our  
Supporters**

# RESCUE HIGHLIGHTS

## Missing from Care Facility in Sandy

**December 25, 2023**

**Duration: 10h, 36m**

**Attendees: 22**

On December 25th, 2023 a call went out for PNWSAR to assist in an ongoing search in Sandy, Oregon for a missing 89 year old woman from her care facility. On this Christmas day, through rough forested terrain, searchers combed the area on foot to find her. PNWSAR's drone team deployed drones in the area that were able to positively locate her position from above. Using heat sensor technology, camera equipment, and advanced training techniques, our drone operators were able to pinpoint her exact coordinates and relay them to the ground search teams. While we are always hoping for a positive outcome when called to a search area, we were grateful to provide closure to family members on this day.

## Stranded Family in Zigzag

**March 20, 2024**

**Duration: 21h, 5m**

**Attendees: 12**

Around 5pm on Wednesday March 20th, a family of six hikers, two ages 9 and 11, sent out an SOS call from near Kinzel Lake in the Mt Hood National Forest. They had become stranded in the snow near Kinzel Lake after hiking from the Salmon River Trail. With their last known coordinates conveyed, a base camp of multi-agency searchers was set up at the Zigzag Ranger Station before being deployed into the field at the Cool Creek Trail head. PNWSAR team members hiked steep terrain in deep snow to the hikers last known location to provide onsite support while extraction plans were made at Base. It took many hours and extensive coordination to send out one of the largest available SnoCats .

## HOW TO CALL SEARCH AND RESCUE

### Utilize Handheld Satellite Devices

Handheld satellite devices such as SPOT or Garmin inReach and some cell phones, which allows users to communicate with International Emergency Response Coordination Center (IERCC) which can then contact local dispatch.

### Dial or Text 911

Calls to 911 go to local emergency dispatch, which then contacts PNWSAR coordinators to coordinate a rescue plan.

**DO NOT** call search and rescue directly.

### What to Say When You Call 911

1. Provide your location first.
2. Describe the nature of the accident and condition of the person in need.
3. Try not to move around when speaking so that the call does not drop.
4. Unless you are in immediate danger, stay in the same location until Search & Rescue arrives.

# MARINE PATROLS



Three years ago, the Hood River County Sheriff's Office asked us to begin providing proactive support on the Columbia River during the heavy recreational use times. We were able to get an older Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) and have spent the past two summers on the river, providing assistance to numerous people in distress on the water.

Last year, it became clear that our old RIB soon wasn't going to be up to the task and we needed a new boat.

We are very excited to announce the generous Grant from Columbia Wind & Water Association of \$60,000 to help purchase our new Marine Patrol boat. As we are anticipating the delivery of the new boat we are in need of funding for the purchase and installation of the new motor and accessories.

## **Opportunities for directed funding:**

Motor and installation:	\$11,186
Hydraulic Steering:	\$1,100
Light and Antenna Arch:	\$1,500
RIB Ladder:	\$1,100
30 Gallon Fuel tank:	\$500

General boat equipment: Any amount

Add a note to your donation "direct my funds to the needs of the boat" or just "Boat Funds"



## **FROM OUR SUBJECTS...**

"Thank you to all the people who volunteer helping so many people get off trails and out of the woods safely, we greatly appreciate what you do and how kind you are PNWSAR!"

-Marisa in the Columbia Gorge, October 9th, 2023

"Super thankful for the two crews of volunteers that hiked in to rescue our injured friend on the PCT. After 4.9 miles we arrived at Wahtum Lake around 1:00 AM. A Sheriff, our friend Friday, and several rescue vehicles were waiting."

-PCT Thru Hiker, August 2023

# SHOULDER SEASON

The shoulder seasons offer some of the most beautiful and dynamic weather in the Pacific Northwest. The shoulder seasons are the transition from one season to the next with both seasons expressing themselves, sometimes in contradictory ways. This is when many adventurers get into trouble. PNWSAR is called to many missions during these dynamic weather periods.

A hiker leaves the trailhead for an afternoon hike when it is 50° with clear skies, but a few miles into the hike they have gained elevation and the temperature has dropped into the 30s. Perhaps it is getting dark and rain is starting to fall and they find themselves unprepared. The causal afternoon hike has become potentially life threatening. It is easy to become disoriented in the dark and rain can soak through even good quality gear. Cold can set in and cause lethargy, unclear thinking, and hypothermia.

We were on a mission where the hiker lost the trail and was attempting to navigate by the light of his cell phone. When we got to him, he was exhausted, cold, and frightened. He was also perched on the edge of a 60 foot cliff—one misstep could have been tragic. We have assisted folks that leave the trailhead wearing shorts, t-shirts, and tennis shoes—unaware that when the sun drops below a ridge or canyon wall the temperature drops dramatically. What was a pleasant temperature when you left the car is now dangerously cold. The slight sweat you have from the hike now has the potential to kill you.

PNWSAR was called for three missing male hikers that left the parking lot wearing Hawaiian type shirts and shorts. When the sun went down and they were caught. Two of them found the way back to the car but got separated from their friend. He was located curled up in the fetal position on the trail. He had attempted to start a fire with a few dollar bills and a lighter. Fortunately we reached him in time. He was severely hypothermic but was able to make a full recovery.

One beautiful spring day three young, healthy men started hiking the PCT. As the trail continued to gain altitude a storm blew in and they found themselves in white-out conditions. Exhausted, soaking wet, and extremely cold they were lucky to have a satellite based device to call for help. What was a fun day of hiking turned into a rescue.

Heat can also lead to issues during the shoulder season. A typical hot sunny day sends families to the rivers and streams where they find water that is still in the low 40s. The water can be especially inviting in warm weather. Most folks don't bring proper personal floatation devices. If they go in, they are greeted by "cold shock"—suddenly they can't catch their breath, their heart rate increases, the cold causes their extremities to become difficult to move—drowning is now a possibility. Every year during the winter-spring shoulder season the papers report tragedies from mixing warm days with cold water.

As rescuers, we urge you to know before you go and always take the 10 essentials with you—yes, even for a "short" hike. If you are taking an afternoon hike, know what time the sun goes down. If you're heading to the river to swim, check the water temperature and wear a PFD. Look at the forecast for where you are going, not just where you started. The shoulder season can bring incredible beauty to a hike if you are prepared.

# SPRING EVENTS



Congratulations to our 2024 cohort!

**THANK YOU TO  
OUR PARTNERS**

## PNWSAR in the Community

- Annual New Year's Day Polar Plunge at Cascade Locks: Members of PNWSAR Marine Patrol were onsite to offer any services needed to those jumping into the waters of the frigid Columbia Gorge
- Daybreak Racing, Gorges Waterfall Race is a 100K, 50K and 30K trail running race through the heart of the iconic Columbia River Gorge. Members of PNWSAR assisted at one of the aid stations on the loop providing support for runners from the afternoon into the night.
- Post Canyon Enduro Mountain Bike Race. PNWSAR team members provided aid and medical support for this two-day event on Mt. Hood

## Coming up...

- July 4: Join us for the 4th of July parade in Hood River!
- July 6 and 7: We will be providing support for Kiteboard 4 Cancer in Hood River.
- August 3: Join us at the Hood Hundred where we will be supporting an aid station. We'll also have a table set up so you can come visit us.

- Cascade Locks Fire
- Civil Air Patrol
- Clackamas County Sheriff's Office
- Clackamas SAR
- Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
- Crag Rats
- Hood River County Sheriff's Office
- Mountain Wave
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
- Multnomah County SAR
- Mt. Hood SAR Council
- Oregon Office of Emergency Management
- Port of Hood River
- Portland Mountain Rescue
- U.S. Forest Service
- Wasco County Sheriff's Office
- Washington County SAR
- Washington County Sheriff's Office



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## Dani Osborne

**Incoming board member**

**Has served as: Board of Directors, Training Committee**

*When did you join the team?*

2022 - The Sunshine Cohort

*Most memorable moment with PNWSAR:*

The high morale and dedication among members who showed up to do a Christmas morning search while it was 40 degrees and raining.

*How has SAR changed you?*

In many ways, that I'm greatly appreciative of. As a shy, introverted only child, I have been [gratefully] pushed out of my comfort zone and met amazing people while having to learn how to operate as part of a team.

*What's your favorite part about being a member of PNWSAR?*

The other members of PNWSAR. I never cease to be impressed by the intelligence, kindness, and good humor of the members.

*What's your day job?*

Assistant Scientist in Neurobiology at Legacy Research Institute

*Favorite trail snack!*

Fruity things, fruit leather, jelly beans, gummy bears



## Craig Bachman

**Outgoing Board Member**

**Has served as: Board of Directors, Vice President, Rope Support Team, Swiftwater Rescue Team, RST Committee and Chair, Training Committee and TC Chair**

*When did you join the team?*

January 2013

*Most memorable moment with PNWSAR:*

My most memorable moment was my first find as a trainee shortly after I became a trainee. It started as a medical assistance call, but a second subject also needed assistance. The mission ended up taking all night to get the subject out and he said seeing our headlamps was the best moment of his life.

*How has SAR changed you?*

SAR makes me appreciate how much a caring community of folks with a shared mission can positively impact others.

*What's your favorite part about being a member of PNWSAR?*

My teammates

*What's your day job?*

Retired

*Favorite trail snack!*

Anything peanut butter

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## Brandon Widder

### Incoming Board Member

**Has served as: Board of Directors, our first Public Information Officer (PIO), Training Committee, Trail Running Team**

#### *When did you join the team?*

I joined in January 2018, shortly after the Eagle Creek Fire.

#### *Most memorable moment(s) with PNWSAR:*

There are a few, actually! I will never forget the first time I witnessed former Hood River County Sheriff Joe Wampler buzzing the tops of the trees in his Cessna while searching for a lost subject near the Great Pyramid (aka Hunchback Mountain). I'll also never forget one particular multi-agency mission at Ramona Falls, which had us rig an aerial rope system to send a subject over the Sandy River in a litter, zipline-like, with his dog strapped to his chest.

#### *How has SAR changed you?*

My fiancé might disagree, but SAR has taught me to be a more patient, empathetic person. You're often dealing with people who are experiencing their worst days—not their best—and that requires a real willingness to recognize and understand what someone might be going through, either physically or emotionally. Then you have to apply that same level of understanding to your teammates and yourself, which can be the most difficult of all.

#### *What's your day job?*

Senior Editor at The Verge



#### *What's your favorite part about being a member of PNWSAR?*

Aside from being able to help our community, I've always cherished the quieter moments in the field that few people get to see. There's nothing quite like seeing the sun come up after a long callout, skirting the mountain under a full moon, or peering into an endless sea of bear grass.

#### *Favorite trail snack!*

I'm a complete sucker for trail mix. My default is the Rainbow's End mix from Trader Joe's, but I'll take anything with cashews, almonds, and copious amounts of chocolate. That and jerky.

**Thank you to these employers for their flexibility and support of our volunteers.**

- Autodesk
- Cascade Trenchless Consulting
- Columbia Gorge Family Medicine
- Columbia Sportswear Company
- Curve Networks
- Evolving Innovation
- FlightSafety International
- Good Trip Adventures
- Google
- Hood River County Forestry Department
- Icicle Tricycles
- Kinship Partners Inc
- KMHD
- Lam Research
- Lanternfish Press
- Legacy Health
- Nordic
- OHSU
- Oregon Department of Human Services - Child Welfare
- Oregon Department of Justice
- PLEXSYS Interface Products
- Prime Performance
- Sig Sauer
- Verisk Analytics

# SUPPORT PNWSAR



As we enter the spring season, our all-volunteer team is gearing up for another year of saving lives. With its rugged terrain, dense forests, towering mountains, and unpredictable weather, the Pacific Northwest presents unique obstacles that demand specialized training, equipment, and resources.

Over the years, our dedicated volunteers have responded to everything from lost hikers and injured climbers to missing persons and natural disasters. Each mission underscores the importance of our work and the critical need for ongoing support from our community.

We are reaching out to you, our valued supporters, to ask for your assistance in ensuring that we have the tools and resources necessary to continue our lifesaving mission. Your generosity makes a tangible difference in our ability to navigate the challenges of our unique terrain and provide vital assistance to those in need. Your donation will help us in several crucial ways:

- **Specialized Training:** Our volunteers undergo rigorous training to develop the skills needed to operate safely and effectively. Your support enables us to offer ongoing training opportunities, including advanced medical training and technical rope rescue training.
- **Equipment Upgrades:** The work we do requires specialized gear, including communication equipment, medical supplies, and advanced technology. With your help, we can invest in the latest tools to enhance our capabilities and ensure the safety of both our volunteers and those we serve.
- **Operational Expenses:** From fuel for our vehicles to maintenance costs for our rescue equipment, the operational expenses associated with running our team add up quickly. Your donation will help cover these essential costs and allow us to maintain our readiness to respond to emergencies across the region.

Every dollar you contribute directly supports our efforts to save lives and reunite loved ones in their time of need. Whether you can give \$25, \$50, \$100, or \$10,000 your donation will make a meaningful impact on our ability to serve the Pacific Northwest community.

On behalf of our entire team, thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that our beautiful but challenging wilderness remains a safe and accessible place for all.

All donations are tax deductible. Contribute via PayPal or send your donation. No amount is too small!



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