

THE CALLOUT



Dear Friends and Supporters:

As we transition into the winter season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible dedication of our volunteer team. This summer, large sections of the Gorge were closed due to fires. Yet, we still completed 48 missions and devoted almost 6,000 hours of service to our community in training since June 1st. This is a remarkable increase of over 1,000 hours from the same period last year!

Our Drone Support Team has worked hard over the past few years to become a capable component of our search teams. With many tall cliffs in the Gorge, it is extremely helpful to be able to search hard to reach areas. We have just begun implementing new software that lets a computer search drone footage for specific colors. The software can see small patches of color much more easily than the human eye, which helps us find people faster.

As the President of PNWSAR, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your support over the past year. The financial generosity of our supporters, large and small, is the backbone of our operations. Being able to equip our teams with the right tools and training allows us to respond effectively to all types of emergent scenarios. We recently purchased a new Zodiac mil/pro rescue boat supported by generous grants from the Siletz Tribe and the Columbia Gorge Wind and Water Association. Additionally we acquired an aluminum boat that increases the diversity of water missions we can perform. Other grants and donations have allowed us to purchase a new van and a used Suburban. An individual donor provided us with an electric motor for our litter wheel which makes transporting subjects in steep terrain easier. All of these have enhanced our operational capabilities and expanded our reach, not only saving lives but also fostering a culture of safety and support in our area.

We remain dedicated to supporting the search and rescue activities of the Hood River County Sheriff and our whole region. Each mission provides help for someone in need, strengthens the bonds within our community, and highlights the importance of preparedness and resilience.

Jeff Tinnin

Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue President

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Letter from the President

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Marcel Rodriguez
Stefan Lemmer
Cassie Knierim

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RESCUE HIGHLIGHTS



Heat Exhaustion/Dehydration on Eagle Creek Trail

July 5, 2024

Duration: 4h, 20m

Attendees: 13

On Friday, July 5th, 2024 at 2pm, while many were celebrating the long holiday weekend with a BBQ, the Hood River Sheriff's Office received a 911 call reporting that a hiker was suffering from heat exhaustion and dehydration on the Eagle Creek trail.

Due to the seriousness of the patient's condition, the sheriff's office coordinated a multi-agency response with the Crag Rats Mountain Rescue and the Cascade Locks Fire Dept. PNWSAR deployed an EMT, EMRs, and other searchers to assist with the treatment of the patient in the field, while also maintaining a reserve team at base to be able to respond to any other potential SAR needs. As PNWSAR and our partner agencies were on their way back to the trailhead with the patient, county dispatch informed Incident Command of a newly developing SAR mission just down the road.

Cardiac Issue on Timberline Trail

August 4, 2024

Duration: 7h, 30m

Attendees: 12

On August 4th, 2024, PNWSAR received a call for a 70 year old with complaints of chest pain on Mt Hood's Timberline Trail. The subject was located approximately 1 mile from the climbers trailhead at Timberline lodge. We were joined on the mission by paramedics from AMR's Reach and Treat team.

The subject was experiencing nausea, chest and back pain, and pain radiating down the left arm. She was found to have a dangerously high heart rate and an unstable VTach heart rhythm. AMR Paramedics were able to successfully cardiovert the patient in the field.

Though the distance was short, poor visibility, unstable ground surface, steep drop offs and alternating elevation changes made transport moderately difficult. PNWSAR extracted the subject back to Timberline Lodge to a waiting Life Flight helicopter.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

- 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

RESCUE HIGHLIGHTS

Lost trail runners on Ruckel Ridge/Benson Plateau

July 5, 2024

Duration: 6h

Attendees: 10

On the evening of Friday, July 5th, 2024, as PNWSAR was completing an earlier SAR mission nearby, we received word that two trail runners had gotten lost on Benson Plateau while trying to follow a disused trail along Ruckel Ridge. PNWSAR redeployed to the second mission and organized a mission and communications plan for the rescue.

The lost trail runners were briefly able to get cell signal and Incident Command learned that the subjects didn't have head lamps or a flashlight but we were able to coordinate an plan which allowed the subjects to partially self-extract to a known location before they ran out of light.

The PNWSAR Trail Running Team (TRT) made first contact with the subjects and provided water, food, and headlamps. After a quick medical assessment, PNWSAR and the subjects returned to base where PNWSAR's logistics team had cold drinks, snacks, and watermelon waiting for both the subjects and our searchers who had just completed their second SAR mission of the day.

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

Winter is here and it's time to review your supplies, gear, and practices to make sure you aren't adding unnecessary risk to your outdoor travel and adventures. Here are five items to consider:

Always check the weather report before you go. But don't believe it. The weather in our area can change on a dime and as you change altitude. You should always see what the weather is going to be but don't assume it will always be right. Pack for contingencies.

Always know snow and avalanche conditions.

Understand how the NWAC system works. Use it. If you go into the backcountry, consider an avalanche safety class. Know how to understand slopes and terrain traps. Carry the right gear to rescue and be rescued.


Always have emergency supplies in your car. Even if you don't need them, you're likely to come across somebody who does.

Always carry extra layers and extra calories. It's super easy to get wet. Choose clothes that stay warm even when they're wet (like wool or fleece, no cotton!) and carry an extra dry set you can change into.

Always tell somebody who isn't in your party where you are going and don't change plans without updating them. We're pretty good at finding people but if we don't even know where to start it makes it a lot harder.

PNWSAR H2O

WATER BASED TECHNICAL TEAMS



In 2021 PNWSAR was asked to assist HRC SO in their marine safety program on the Columbia River. PNWSAR put a group of members through Rescue 3 Swiftwater Technician training and secured a concept vessel. For years, in concert with HRC SO Marine Deputies, we built out our capabilities and expertise while adding to the safety of Columbia River water sports users. From this grew the four distinct water based mission capabilities that PNWSAR offers today.

SRT Swiftwater rescue technicians: Trained for river based incidents.

Marine Patrol: A boat and specially trained crew who patrol on weekends and during water events to assist in large river based incidents.

Flood Response: A boat and specially trained crew designed to respond to flood events.

Search and Recovery: A boat and specially trained crew and specific gear designed for surface and subsurface search and recovery of missing subjects.

All OSA certified PNWSAR members are welcome to join the water based technical teams. They must however complete a specific task book for the position and pass an extra physical requirement.

All of our vessels and crew are able to travel to where they can be utilized

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.

WINTER PREPAREDNESS

Guest special by PNWSAR volunteer

Winter is a wonderful time to get out and enjoy the outdoors! Whether it's hiking, skiing, snowboarding, sledding, snowshoeing, building a fort, ice fishing, or any other cold weather activity, be aware that winter comes with its own set of safety concerns to consider when heading outside.

- **Know your skill level:** Set modest goals for yourself and have a backup trip plan. Remember that it will be snowier, windier, and colder at higher elevations.
- **Send trip plans to a friend:** Always notify someone of your specific plans and when to call for help.
- **Stay Dry (as much as possible):** Always bring a hard shell and use it when weather hits. Layer up/down and take breaks to prevent excess sweating.
- **Start early, bring headlamps:** Winter comes with limited daylight. Be conscious to start as early as you can and always have headlamps ready for when the sun sets.
- **Bring gear backups:** Bring the 10 essentials and consider redundancies on gear that could fail. Phone, GPS, and headlamp batteries die quicker in the cold so bring a battery pack and a paper map.
- **Avalanche safety:** Know your avalanche skillset and only enter avalanche terrain ($>30^\circ$ slope) with the proper knowledge and equipment.
- **Traction:** Bring traction for your feet (like microspikes). Compacted snow and ice on trails are especially slippery. However, for deep powder, you'll need snowshoes instead.
- **Don't hesitate to turn around:** Winter conditions often make normally reasonable objectives much more difficult. Set a turnaround time which will get you home and stick to it.
- **Have fun:** Don't let the winter stop you from getting outside, just be prepared!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Marcel Rodriguez

Has served as: Chair of Training Committee, Rope Support Team Lead, EMS Lead, Board Member/Vice President, Swiftwater Rescue Team Member/Committee Member, Marine Patrol Member/Committee Member, Founding Member of Embedded Resilience Team

When did you join the team?
January 2010

Memorable moments:

- Being first on site for a family missing for six days (that was later turned into a 'Survivorman' episode).
- Several 24 hour long missions.
- Spending time with people that I trust with my life.

How has SAR changed you?

I recognize the toll that doing this type of work takes on rescuers and their families.

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

Getting to be the best thing about someone's worst day.



What's your day job?

Vice President of Mergers and Acquisitions for a large technology company

Favorite trail snack:

Snickers all the way!



Stefan Lemmer

Has served on: Mountain Bike Team, Logistics Team

When did you join the team?
I joined the team in January 2017.

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

Our team is an amazing group of very interesting characters. The camaraderie in our team is for sure one of the reasons I am enjoying the time so much. The teamwork, trust and care between the team members is great.

Memorable moments:

Highlights of being a member of PNWSAR is to reunite lost hikers with their loved ones or help families to bring closure when we find a long lost person.

What's your day job?

I have been working at River City Bicycles as a salesman for 22 years.

Favorite trail snack:

Apples and a mix of nuts

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Cassie Knierim

Has served as: training committee, training committee co-chair

When did you join the team?
I joined the team in 2018

Memorable moments:

I don't think I can pick one, or even a few, specific most memorable moments. My time with SAR has been full of memorable moments, from watching beautiful sunrises or sunsets with my team on overnight missions, to long hours searching in heavy rain until our gear is soaked through, to the joy of finding food waiting for us at Base after a long mission or training, to camping out together before a training day, to the sense of accomplishment after a successful rescue.

How has SAR changed you?

I have learned and practiced a lot through SAR from hard skills like navigation and how to use a wheeled litter to soft skills like leadership, teamwork, organization, critical thinking, teaching, and patience.

What's your day job?
I work as a firefighter/paramedic.

Favorite trail snack:

I don't have a favorite trail snack, per se, as I love to have some variety when I'm hiking. But, I am particularly fond of peanut M&Ms, applesauce pouches, and uncrustables.

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

One of my favorite parts of being a member of PNWSAR is the team itself. It's a community of people with a desire to help others and a love for the outdoors, but it's also a diverse group of people with different backgrounds and life experiences.



WE'RE IN GIVE!GUIDE!

Support our mission

at giveguide.org!



As we head into another year of rescue and safety operations in the Pacific Northwest, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your support of Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue (PNWSAR). Your generosity helps us save lives and maintain our mission to provide critical services to those in need. This year, we have an exciting new way for you to continue supporting our work: Willamette Week's Give!Guide.

For the first time, PNWSAR is participating in Give!Guide, an annual grassroots campaign by Willamette Week to raise funds and highlight the incredible efforts of local nonprofits like ours. Since its launch in 2004, Give!Guide has raised over \$64 million for hundreds of nonprofits across Portland. Last year alone, the campaign raised an astounding \$8.35 million from over 16,600 donors — and this year, we're thrilled to be a part of it.

Give!Guide is a community-driven initiative supported by local businesses, providing incentives and prize drawings for donations over \$10. This campaign places a strong focus on engaging younger donors under the age of 36, helping foster a culture of active, engaged citizenry. We're excited to connect with a new generation of supporters and to reach our year-end goal of raising \$30,000 to fund vital new lifesaving equipment.

You can be part of this effort by making a donation of \$10 or more, which will automatically enter you into Give!Guide's Big Giveaways! Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us get closer to our goal and strengthens our capacity to serve the community.

Thank you for your continued support, and for considering a donation to PNWSAR through Give!Guide. Together, we can make a powerful impact on the lives of those in need.



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pnwsar.org



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
- Icicle Tricycles
- Kinship Partners Inc
- KMHD
- Lam Research
- Lanternfish Press
- Legacy Health
- Nordic
- OHSU
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