

General Meeting Minutes 4/2/2015

Rock Recert--Joshua Tree: We kicked ass. The first scenario was very difficult. We did a high-angle lower with a guideline that went well. So well, in fact that the patient quite literally fell asleep while being lowered. Second scenario was a pickoff and a medical scenario with a possible spinal injury. We got glowing reviews from both proctors who gave us the first perfect score he had given in 20 years of proctoring.

Winter race series--The last race went really well and people have such a good time. Matt has photos from the last race and someone will write a post for the website. April 11 at Mill Pond: sign up to help

Missions: Missing climber in the Gorge--call went out on Saturday morning. A deputy and warden went down around 11pm on Friday night, driving and calling for the missing person. Team went out at 7am, Frank had seen someone who had fit the description on Friday night climbing by himself in the Gorge so we started searching from there but got word that his body had been located in the sub-Gorge by a family member within about an hour of arriving.

What we found: tied into the rope on 8' loop attached to Grigri attached to harness, with a quickdraw with a hanger attached to one end. Two bolts with quickdraws with no rope through them and a third hole above that looked like a bolt had been there and pulled/broken.

It was technically in Mono County, so eventually their team showed up and we had to figure out coordinating with them. Frank had to do some serious pow-wow-ing with their very enthusiastic IC dude, but reason and Inyo SAR eventually prevailed.

Did single rope raise up small-size talus gully and carried the litter upstream about a quarter mile to reach the base of the gully. We used vehicles as anchors and threw in a change of direction. Meanwhile one team did the carryout section of the recovery and the timing worked out well and the haul up went smoothly with the 600' rope holding the weight of the litter with four attendants leaning out to keep it off the ground. The system worked well and we were glad to not have a belay which would have been a pain and would have only complicated things and knocked down more rocks in choss central.

Some local people did an investigation and found the broken buttonhead bolt, which had clearly been broken for a long. Cause of death was C3 vertebrae. It should be noted that he did have damage to his head and was not wearing a helmet.

This became a big story because "bolts don't break," and he was a big part of the local climbing community.

Mutual aid--Mono County "Technical rescue on a glacier" up out of Twin Lakes on The Cleaver. Four or Five people spent the night out there with the patient who had a broken leg and was by himself. When Ariana and Julie showed up they didn't know where he was. The new Chinook came and picked him off the glacier and it was "pretty cool." It was extremely windy but the pilot was able to deal with it. Lesson from the mission--keep your pack with you all the time.

Trainings:

Jackets: The board would like to put up to a vote \$4000 for jackets. The measure passed.

Helicopter training: April 18 H-40 will be here to do a training with us. We will do it somewhere in the field where there is slightly more difficult terrain. We will need to get a permit from BLM or Forest Service if we're landing the helicopter. There will be a Thursday training to go with it as well.

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CPR/First Aid will be at the Hut on May 9! Email Ariana if you're interested. You can do half of it if you only need half of the certification.

If anyone is interested in continued rope training that would be more relevant for actual rescues, self rescue, escaping belay, etc., talk with Mike Hay.

Vehicles: We will be getting a few new/old vehicles from the sheriffs dept.

Congratulations to Dean Chavez who was voted by the county as the EMS provider of the year for Inyo County and will be presented with an award for his service on SAR and the fire department from the county. May 19, 10 am!

Nate is going to another meeting on avalanche stuff and hopefully more trainings will possibly come out of it.

May 2, law enforcement expo at the fairgrounds on the same day as the swap meet and if anyone is available to volunteer, let Nate know.

New members: Sunny just moved to Bishop as a PA at the rural health clinic. Has lots of experience in the backcountry and doing open water swimming.

Ben: Looking to move to Bishop, EMT through WMI, works in outdoor education.