
❄️ Caldera Chronicles ❄️

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Winter 2003

Aliens Invade Crater Lake

Jordan Vinograd

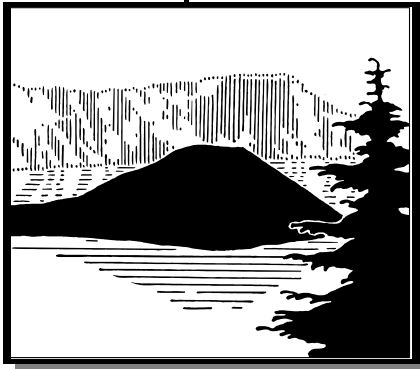
Introduced, or nonindigenous, species are a major threat to biodiversity worldwide. When a species is introduced into a new environment outside its native range, there is no telling what the consequences might be on the resident ecology. No country on earth has seen more fish introductions than the United States. Unfortunately, Crater Lake is no exception.

History: How did the fish get there?

The first recorded attempts to stock the hydrologically isolated lake were made in 1888 by Crater Lake National Park's founder, William G. Steel. It is thought that he stocked the lake to encourage fishing, a popular recreational use of the National Parks. By the turn of the century, a regular stocking program was established. This program was continued until 1941 when it was proven that the fish were reproducing naturally. During this time six species of fish were introduced into the Lake: rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout, steelhead, Coho (silver) salmon, and Kokanee salmon.

Not surprisingly, all of these species did not succeed in establishing stable populations. Steelhead and Coho are anadromous (meaning they live in the ocean and migrate to freshwater only

to spawn). Therefore, a life in an isolated caldera certainly did not suit this lifestyle. In addition, there have been no sightings of brook or brown trout since the 1960s. The only survivors seem to be the rainbow trout



and Kokanee salmon, both being very well suited for a life in cold, deep

waters.

Many traits make these fish the ideal "alien invaders" of Crater Lake's waters. Researchers believe that their stable populations are largely due to each fish species exploiting a different food source. Kokanee feed on zooplankton and rainbows feed on aquatic insects, both plentiful in Crater Lake. Therefore they do not compete with each other. And since they are the only fish species in the Lake all

other competition and predation are eliminated. Kokanee are the most abundant species in the lake, with a population well into the hundreds of thousands. Rainbow trout are less abundant, but are typically larger.

Introduced species: Why worry?

Introduced species have had widespread impacts on the biota of inland waters. Impacts of introduced aquatic organisms on native aquatic communities can be classified into five broad categories: habitat alteration, trophic alteration, spatial alteration, gene pool deterioration, and introduction of diseases.

Habitat impacts include interference with predator-prey relationships and disruption in water quality by growth and decomposition. Fish can overly destroy native vegetation, which in turn limits fish nursery areas, causes bank erosion, and accelerates eutrophication through release of nutrients previously stored in the plants.

Introduction of any spe-

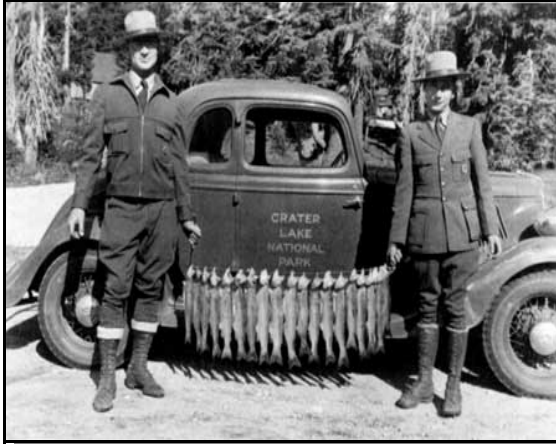
cies into a novel environment may alter community trophic or food web structure, and the nature and extent of such changes are intricate and unpredictable. A lack of natural predation eliminates a system of checks and balances in the ecosystem. This can lead to a sudden population eruption of the introduced species. When an introduced fish exhibits explosive population increases, substantial changes in native communities occur. Macroinvertebrate or algal communities may become small or even go extinct due to overfeeding.

Reduction of heterogeneity in the gene pool due to inbreeding is clearly a threat to any species being produced in a hatchery or other isolated system. In an isolated system like Crater Lake, inbreeding of the fish populations can initiate genetic diseases. Thus species may or may not have the genetic characteristics necessary to adapt to environmental conditions. The possibility of gene pools being altered through hybridization is consequently a threat.

Diseases caused by bacteria, viruses, and parasites are all too often conveyed along with introduced

aquatic species. This aspect represents one of the most severe threats that an introduced species may pose to a native community.

***Conclusion:
What can we do
to fix it?***



*Below : Rangers displaying catch, 1938.
(Fuller, D. 1994. Nature Notes Volume XXV)*

FISH

There is some controversy as to whether or not removal of the fish at this point would do more damage than good since the ecological alterations have already taken place. It is commonly thought that all currently reliable methods of large-scale fish removal would alter Crater Lake's ecosystem far more than the fish do. However, fishing introduces the powerful factor of predation, necessary for a pseudo-natural

system of check and balances. Therefore, fishing the Lake seems to be the best option for management of these introduced species. Whether or not Crater Lake will ever return to its natural fish-free condition is yet to be determined.

No fishing license is necessary and there is no limit to how many fish you can catch; however, no live or organic bait may be used, and the cleaning of fish in the lake is prohibited.

So, happy fishing and tight lines!

Resources:

Buktenica, M. The Fish or Crater Lake. Website: www.nps.gov/crla/fish.htm

Fuller, D. 1994. A Fish Tale You Can Believe. *Nature Notes*. Volume XXV.

Winter, B.D., R.M. Hughes. 1996 *Fisheries* 22(1) 22-29

WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS

Bill Bloom

I really do not know where to start, and there is surely no ending, but here it goes. As most of you Park personnel and CRLA Ski Patrollers are aware, Martin Luther King Day this year is, and was a "life defining" day for my-

self and three other people.

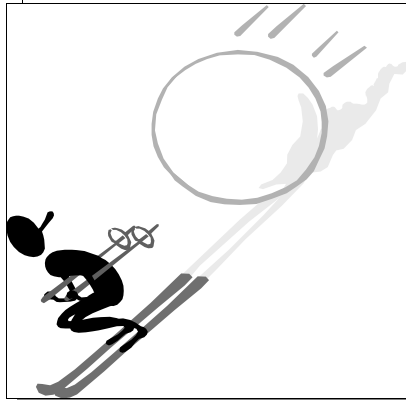
It was a day of prophecies, adventure, near death experience, survival and successful conclusions. Randy Benham and I had tried to put together a rescue team Sunday evening to go out Monday morning and see if we could find any trace of the two overdue skiers “doing the Rim”.

I called Carole (my Lady) to let her know that we might be out overnight, that the avalanche danger was high, but not to worry if she did not hear from me on Monday. She asked if I had updated my emergency information with her contact numbers. I told her I would make sure that was done before I headed out in the morning.

Monday morning brought another snowy morning with another 12” of fresh powder overnight. Randy and I met at the Canfield Headquarters as it came apparent that the others rescuers had discovered other commitments overnight and were not able to join us. By 9:30, we decided we were “it” and headed for East Rim Trailhead as planned. At the Trailhead, I suddenly remembered that I had not updated my emergency information, got on the radio

to Jennifer in dispatch and gave her the Phone numbers...”copy, 1014” was her reply...

Randy and I headed out, breaking 18-22” of snow, with every step, for the next 2 hours, we traded lead and exchanged past experi-



ences to offset the laboriously slow speed of about ¾ mile per hour.

Around 12:15, two other day skiers from Klamath Falls caught up with us (Rick Ward and Kris Fischer) who thanked us for blazing such a nice trail for them. We introduced ourselves to them and they offered to help break for a while. Breaking went faster, and by 13:15, we were resetting the Crater Peak Trailhead sign.

We started around the corner headed toward Vidae Falls when Randy and I felt a small “settling” and heard the little “whoop” sound that

no experienced backcountry skier likes to hear, usually associated with a small slide or avalanche. As I recall, we stopped for about 2 minutes to visually survey the scene for any signs of slides or fractures. I took over the lead break position with Randy, Rick and Kris following evenly spaced. Randy and I have been down this stretch of trail literally a hundred times over the years, and have never seen more than a small point slide or a 4-5’ sluff, so we didn’t “Gear Down” (loosen backpacks, take off wrist straps, or loosen ski bindings). There was no thought of an avalanche occurring at this location.

All of a sudden, about 150 to 200 feet down the trail Randy hollered, “it’s coming down” and I turned to see the entire ridge from the rock cornice to the trees (about 200-300’) break loose and start sliding toward us. The snow seemed to be moving so quietly and slowly I thought to myself “it’s only going to pile up a little, and I have plenty of time to step out of the track and head down over the edge”. I managed to take one step before it started coming up past my knees, and anchored my skis down in the tracks. The avalanche continued to pick up speed and the kept getting deeper. By the time the snow was up to my waist, it started to move faster, all I could think about was what we have rehearsed in training, year after year, “take a deep breath, try to get your body pointed the direction of the slide, swim, and make an air pocket before the snow comes to a complete stop”. With my feet anchored, and my wrists still in my pole straps. I only had time to turn my upper torso the direction of the slide, take a deep breath, and get my hands up by my face, as a big white wave rushed over me like a rip-

tide. All I could hear was the roar of the avalanche rushing past my ears, as the force of the avalanche tried to push my hands away from my face.

The weight of the snow around me forced about half a lung-full of air out of me, as I tried to take another breath; that was a "BIG Mistake"! Because, all I breathed in was a lung full of powder snow, which made me feel like I was going to drown. When everything stopped moving, I tried to move the snow away from my face, and take a deep breath. That is when I learned what the feeling of total helplessness feels like. I coughed a couple of times, found that with my breathing restricted by the weight of the packed snow I had only room for a half-breath per inhale. Moreover, that the movement of my hands was restricted to because my wrist and fingertips were "manacled" by my ski pole wrist straps. My heart was hammering at probably 160+ and I could not stop myself from hyperventilated breathing no matter how many times I told myself to slow down.

Then I heard one of the sweetest sounds I will ever hear; "Dispatch-1145", and I thought "thank

God," not everyone was buried, someone got out alive, that means there is still hope". Has I listened while Randy relayed the situation to park dispatch as of the current status, fought my imprisoning wrist straps, and tried to get to the radio on my chest to let him know that I was alive, but buried. My efforts were useless, and I



decided that all I was doing was using up what little oxygen I had in the pocket I had cleared in front of my nose and mouth, but just knowing that there were some people not buried, and nearby to helped me make me slow down a little.

Hearing that three of them had been rescued lifted my spirits and I thought "Soon Bill Soon", because I knew that Randy had a Piep, and so did I, and both Piep's had fresh batteries because I had replaced

them that morning gave me hope. Has I was thinking to myself I, was only covered by a couple feet of snow, they will be able to find me!

Nevertheless, some time passed and still no probes, shovels, or anything. After awhile, I am not sure how long that was, I could not hear the radio transmissions anymore I began getting very tired. I began saying my good-byes, feeling regrets for the things I had not completed, and began to accept the possibility that this just might be the last ski trip.

I went to sleep.

Sometime later, I felt something, and thought I was either dead or hallucinating, but immediately after that, I felt a sharp pain in my elbow that brought me back to consciousness, and I knew there was someone looking for me who was very CLOSE!

I thought, "God just let them drop the probe one more time before they move on". The probe pole came down right in front of my hand, I grabbed it and I thought, "this pole is not coming back out of here without me attached to it, Thank you God"!

When I saw light above me and could take a big gulp of air I KNEW God was not through with me yet. The cramps, shakes, and night in the hospital that followed were not especially terrific, but all of them certainly beat the alternative.

I thank my Higher Power, Randy, Rick and Kris, (the three tools he used) and all the Park Rangers, Staff and facilities that came to my aid and the level of support and caring I received from all of the above.

I know today that not many people in this world have been blessed with as tight and caring a "Family" as I have come to experience between the Patrol and Park "brothers and sisters" over the last 5+ years. I am a very lucky man in more ways than one. Words cannot express, but Thank you, one and all:

Come Ski Mt. Bailey

This year we have two dates for the Hemlock Hut on Mt. Bailey: Jan 31 Fri - Feb 4 Tues and Feb 28 Fri - March 4 Tues. Last year we had primo powder around the 8th of March. We have reservations for 15 people in the Hut both times, so if your game for a four mile ski to the Ski chalet and possible ski up to the summit give me an E-mail and how many are going at: jimhammerle@hotmail.com

The Disappearance of Photographer B.B. Bakowski : A Historical Note on Crater Lake

Ski ya later's,

*Jimmy the
KID Hammerle*

Born in the former Soviet Union in the late 1800's, B.B. Bakowski immigrated to the United States, settling in Bend, Oregon, ten years before his disappearance at Crater Lake in the winter of 1911.

Five weeks before his disappearance, B.B. Bakowski left Fort Klamath, Oregon with a month of provisions to photograph winter at Crater Lake. While it is a certainty that B.B. did get to Crater Lake, as evidenced by a picture postcard of the snow rimmed lake, received on February 2, 1911 by W.F. Arant, superintendent of Crater Lake National Park from 1902-1913, his final resting place remains unknown.

Overdue from his photo-

graphic expedition, the Medford Mail Tribune ran an article on February 22, 1911 with the headline, "Photographer lost in snows of Crater Lake." That winter the snow was over twenty feet deep.

One of the first searches by Frank Burns and Albert Gipson for the missing 28 year old found B.B.'s sled and shovel 1 ½ miles around the lake rim, hidden beneath the snow. His Kodak and other supplies remained missing.



An article in the Medford Mail Tribune on March 1, 1911, detailed the search by the "Medford Explorers", B.F. Heidel, an engineer, M.L. Erick-

son, first supervisor and Harry Hicks who snowshoed to Crater Lake in search of B.B. Upon reaching the hotel building on the rim, they found camera cases but no sign of supplies such as bedding and food.. The search party believed he was still alive and camped on the other side of the lake. However, they were unable to find him.

On March 2, 1911, the Medford Mail Tribune reported on the findings of two search parties just returned from Crater Lake. The headline, "Perished at Crater Lake" reflected the findings of supplies and a camera by T.S. White and E. Monger, but again, no trace of B.B. Their conclusion was that "he is undoubtedly dead."

Also found, was an abandoned campsite where someone had chopped wood, including two green logs, evidence, the searchers felt, that he intended to camp at the lake. They came across canvas stretched across opening of a ten-foot deep tunnel in the snow. In the tunnel they found food, B.B.'s pack, supplies, provisions, 2 comforters, shoes, socks, underwear, a cup, and extra clothing. At the mouth of tunnel was a pencil stuck in the snow.

In B.B.'s backpack, were papers and letters, including 3 from Miss Georgianna McKenzie of Spokane, Washington, dated December 27, 1910, 60 unexposed rolls of film, and 3 cases of exposed film. The camp, they surmised, had been occupied for 1-3 nights.

On March 3, 1911, the Medford Mail Tribune headline read, "*Gale Raging at Crater Lake.*" With visibility less than 200 yards, snow drifts, and high gale winds, again the conclusion was reached that photographer B.B. Bakowski had probably lost his way or plunged to death over a precipice in the blizzard and perished. Only when the summer sun melted the high drifts of snow would searchers

have a chance of locating his body.

On June 15, 1911, the Medford Mail Tribune headline ran an article entitled "*Finds Bakowski's Mitt and Webs.*" A logger, J.A. McDonald, found a pair of snowshoes, a mitten, and a roll of film on the edge of the lake.

The search parties were finally stopped in the summer of 1911. By August 1911, the conclusion reached by searchers and reported in the Medford Mail Tribune was that B.B. Bakowski's body lies beneath the deep blue waters at the bottom of Crater Lake.

Sources:

- Medford Mail Tribune articles from 1911
- The Table Rock Sentinel, Sept/Oct 1985

SAFETY CORNER TIP

Now that winter is here, it's that time of the year to watch for ice and

Benefits of Membership

Two and three winters ago, my son Tristan Hay had the privilege to join the Crater Lake Ski Patrol. During that time, he gain valuable first aid, visitors contact, and teamwork skills which he later found would benefit him in applying for college and jobs.

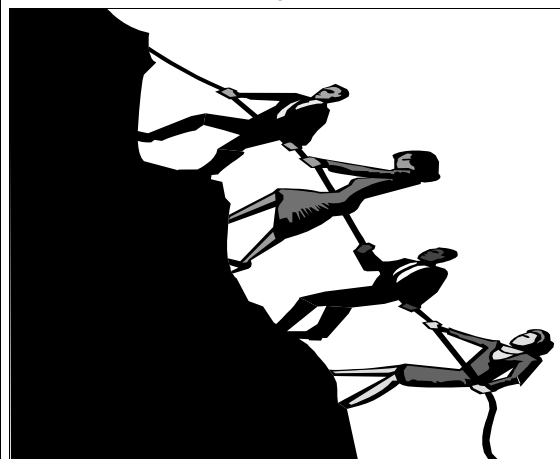
A year ago, Lynnfield College said that the most important aspects of Tristan application for admission were volunteering with Klamath Falls police Explorer Scouts and Crater Lake Ski Patrol.

Two summers ago, Tristan was able to include his first aid and teamwork skills on applications for seasonal fire-fighting. Again, his involvement with the Ski Patrol made his application standout.

My thanks and Tristan thanks!

Sincerely:

Ken Kay



Have You Been GeoCaching?

J.T Hummel

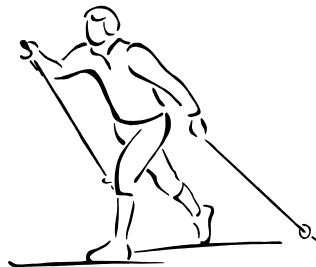
If you own a GPS and haven't discovered this web site then you're missing out on a great activity that will get you outside year round. But most of all it will help you to strengthen your skills on using your GPS. This web site shows you areas all over Oregon where someone has hidden a container for people that own a GPS to find hidden treasures. You'll be amazed at how many containers are hidden in and around your city.

All you have to do is sign on to www.geocaching.com and register. (It won't cost you a thing) After that, you can click on to your city and look at all the areas that have these hidden treasure containers. You can zoom in on your area and choose a specific spot and it will give you the coordinates for you to plug into your GPS. It will help if you have a Topo Map of Oregon. Using these coordinates you can look on the map to help you determine where you'll need to start. The first cache I went to look for was only 5 miles from my house. Inside this con-

tainer was a logbook that allowed you to sign in and say anything you want. Also there are inexpensive things such as some refrigerator magnets, a teddy bear, a



home video and other trinkets. The idea is to take something out of this cache and replace it with something else. You can also hide things as well and go onto the web site: Too log in the coordinates for others to find. Enjoy.



Upcoming Events: Sponsored By the Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol

Ken Coen

- 1/16 (Thurs) Avalanche Basic (Day 1) 10 pm in Eugene, place TBD
- 1/23 (Thurs) Avalanche Basic (Day 2) 6-10 pm in Eugene, place TBD
- 1/25 (Sat) Ski Skills w/ Dan Miller 9-4 pm at Gold Lake Snow Park
- 1/26 (Sun) Avalanche Basic (Day 3) 8-5 pm at the Willamette Pass
- 2/8 (Sat) REI Winter Sports Fest 10-3 pm at Gold Lake Snow Park
- 2/8 (Sat) Mountain. Travel & Rescue Fundamentals in Eugene
- 2/22 (Sat) Mountain Travel Rescue Fundamentals and Mountain Travel and Rescue 1: in Eugene
- 3/1 (Sat) Freeheel Frenzy All Day Event Willamette Pass
- 3/1-2 (Sat & Sun) Field session for MTR-1 Overnight Gold Lake Snow Park

All these classes are available to Crater Lake Patrollers if there is room in the class. Please contact Ken Coen at: kenc@cew.info He will reply with teacher/contact information.

Aloha Ski Patrol

I actually started writing this letter while on vacation with Jeanette in Colorado and finished it here in Hawaii. We spent the Christmas holiday skiing and being with family in Breckenridge, Colorado. It was lots of fun!

Being in Colorado made me think more about the ski patrol than I usually do. I remembered the good times I had and how important the patrol is to the park, park visitors and the surrounding community. I can't tell you all enough how much you are appreciated for the good work you do. Thanks for working so hard to protect the visitors and fragile wilderness of Crater Lake's winter world. Word of your accomplishments has even traveled to Hawaii. I was asked to pass on a thanks from a visitor to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park who, along with his daughter, were rescued by the Ski Patrol at Crater Lake back in 1996!

Hawaii has been a fantas-

tic experience for us. We have really enjoyed the diverse cultural and natural populations. We have been introduced to some ono (good) Hawaiian food and have learned about some unique aspects of Hawaiian culture from our new "local" friends. I have tried surfing once, and although I enjoyed it, I still prefer the peace



and calm of the underwater world. Hawaii provides some terrific opportunities for year-round diving and snorkeling. Our favorite place to dive is near Pu'uuhonua O' Honaunau (place of refuge). We can go from six feet of depth to just over a hundred feet within 100 meters of shore! I have seen many colorful and interesting species of fish and have even had a pod of dolphins swim around me as I sucked air from my SCUBA tank 90' below the surface.

Work is going well. I am the "Backcountry Coordinator" and the "Technical Rescue Specialist". That means that when I am not responding to law enforcement or other emergencies or routine patrolling, I am engaging in some exciting and creative backcountry projects.

Jeanette is staying busy with fire. She (and occasionally me as well) has been working on the same fire for nine months! Hawaii Volcanoes has one continues ignition source (the lava) that has also been responsible for starting the nearby forest on fire. The park spends a week putting it out, only to have the lava change course and re-ignite the fire in a slightly different location. Jeanette says hello and sends her aloha.

Well that is all from Hawaii for now. If any of you make it over here, be sure to give us a call. We both miss you and hope everyone on the Crater Lake Ski Patrol is doing well, skiing safely and having lots of fun!

Aloha,

John Broward

Ski Patrol Coordinator

1995-2000

Ski Patrol Truck

By now everyone has probably seen the Ski Patrol truck that we get to use on the Patrol weekends. How many of you know what's in the Tool Box that's mounted in the bed?

During the weekend of January 11th & 12th we had a medical situation at the rim that requires O2. We had to wait for someone to bring it from Headquarters. The next morning thanks to Mario he decided to unlock the box to see what's in there. There is an orange rescue pack that has O2 and in addition a ton of stuff that will come in handy for countless tasks. When you have your next weekend take a moment with your group and look in that tool box to see what is in there.

J.T.



Zen of Gear

Do I really need all this gear? There's a clear distinction between need and want but the art of justification takes over and there I am with another piece of gear I somehow persuaded myself I needed. Just 5 years ago, my possessions were minimal. Now, I can take an inventory that would satisfy any manager of a gear store. It's not that I have a lot of gear (this is debatable) but it's 100% more than what I had 5 years ago.

Over the years, I've found interest in how humans are determined to explore this world and even sacrifice their lives to find out what lies beyond the mind's eye. Whether the mode of transportation is climbing, skiing, walking, boating, swimming or flying, eventually, the task is completed. This journey is done with various levels of equip-

ment and the gear of the past is far different than the present. Despite such gaps, humans have made it to their final destination only to end where the next person will begin. We refine such equipment, technology and technique to do exactly what was once done.

It's obvious that gear is not the sole reason people do what they love to do. Every person finds a unique place

within their journey. Regardless of what gear we have, we ultimately explore our world because we love to do it. As I realize this, I do admit, I love doing it with all this new gear!

I hope everyone has a safe journey with or without that piece of gear

Ski Patrol House Supplies

Just a reminder that when you come up on patrol weekends please bring along a roll of paper goods, a bar of soap. A little help goes a long ways.

Mary King



Ski Patrollers, Candidates, et al. . .

It is with great pride and fascination that I discover this winter I am officially your Coordinator! The past four years of skiing with, training (and let's not forget the pot lucking!) have been tremendously wonderful. I am thrilled beyond belief to finally work with you as a direct liaison with the National Park Service and Crater Lake's Ranger staff.

Most of you have worked with me at some point in time, nevertheless as we have 18 new candidates for 2003, (that's right--18 candidates! Surely a record, although I have to check the archives. . .) I thought I might take a minute to give you some background on who I am and how in the heck I got this job!

I have lived my entire life in the Pacific Northwest (The real Northern California, Washington state and Oregon) bumbling around backpacking, climbing, skiing and any blister causing sport I

could find to keep occupied! Much of this time I spent pretending to be a college student and accumulating way too many credits in miscella-



neous subjects in order to continue having summers off. In 1995 when I discovered that the world of 9-5 jobs wasn't going to work for me, I quit my position in the music industry and moved to the Willamette Valley. I worked a number of different positions in the valley, but primarily concentrated on organic farming and the certification processes involved with such. On an escapade to Olympic National Park in 95, I cornered a backcountry

ranger and tickled him until he relinquished the information on securing a job with the National Park Service. Six months later Pete Reinhardt (with four hours remaining before his job cert expired) quickly decided to hire me on at Crater Lake. After working with the staff for a year or so, Pete was ridiculous enough to offer me a permanent position with the Annie Spring District. When the legendary John Broward left for Hawaii in 2001, Dan Jacobs saw fit to follow through with the Crater Lake love and offer me the Backcountry Ranger position, which includes being your field coordinator! Of course, somewhere during that time, I met and married my husband Kevin and gave birth to a son, Noah (who just turned 1).

I am so excited about the Ski Patrol and all of the hard work they have done as well as ongoing projects which are coming to fruition. One that many senior patrollers have been working on is the Sign project. Hopefully everyone has had a chance to view the prototypes for our newly redesigned backcountry ski trail signs. I can't believe how much dedication and heart has gone into this project from many volunteers and rangers. Dan Miller and Neil Barrett deserve special kudos for the implementation of these signs. We are also in the process of designing a web page for the Crater Lake Ski Patrol to own, update and utilize for educational and administrative purposes. The web page is long overdue and we owe Jeff Buchin a big thank you for taking this project on. Finally, we are going to provide the public with a brand new avalanche bypass map of the park. This will include historically safer ways through known avalanche territory as well as newer input patrollers

and rangers have come up with in recent seasons. Thanks to JT Hummel for his beacon education and Phil Kelley for the GIS work on this. All said, we have a lot going on right now and plenty to keep us busy! Not to mention our regular full plate of avalanche forecasting, trail marking and upkeep, visitor education and search and rescue incidents!

The patrol is coming into a new age and I have some huge ski boots to fill. With Ranger John Broward's departure, senior patroller, Park Service Ranger and Training Officer Randy Benham has been handling many of the patrol duties. Last season he was solely responsible for coordinating the patrol. This season Randy is continuing to serve as the primary field training officer while he ventures out on another entrepreneurial adventure! His new business may keep him from being physically present at every training function but be assured his spirit and dedication will not be lacking. We also have new "shadow" candidates as the Patrol Council evolves into new leadership. With the coming of next season I am confident the shadow members will be serving key roles in influencing the direction and mission of the Crater Lake Ski Pa-

trol.

I am so happy that everyone was able to witness and *appreciate the awards* that were given out for the incident last season. What a tribute to our patrol and individual courage!

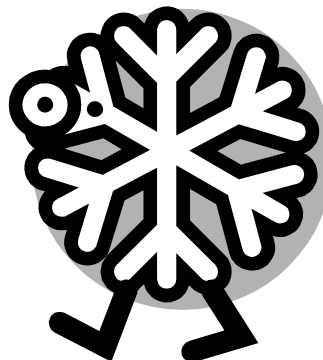
I know that we are more prepared and absolutely ready for anything that comes our way this winter.

Well, I think that's all



for now. Let's go ski!

(Now if only I can get the heck out of Georgia. . .)



Tech Tips

Randy Benham

I learned a new word a few years ago. This new word was Slack Pack! I asked a particular patroller (no names will be used to protect the innocent and the guilty) what in the heck is a Slack Pack? So after a little demonstration between the two patrollers (all done in good fun) I found out what a *Slack Pack* was. OK already, what's a Slack Pack you're asking? Well, first of all let me say; (without pointing any fingers) that we have all been guilty at one time or another of having slack packs now and then (except Dan Miller and his Mondo 100 pound pack). It's 9:00 am and the patrollers for the weekend are gathering at the ranger station for that day's assignment. We get our assignment for the day and then head outside to load our packs and skis into the rig. One patroller is loading the packs and all of a sudden he picks up a pack that weighs 30 lbs. less than the others and then blurts out a comment like, where's your gear dude? Hence, *the Slack Pack!*

First of all, let me say as patrollers we all have individual needs along with different ideas of what we should be carrying in our patrol packs. No one will ever carry the same exact gear as the next. But we should also keep in mind that we are National Park Ski Patrollers and are representing the National Park Service. So when we ski up to a medical scene in the backcountry we should without any doubt have the appropriate gear to at least start the initial treatment and make the patient comfortable. As the

Boy Scouts say “Be prepared.” We also need to keep in mind. When we leave the parking lot in the morning, there could be a chance that we could end up on a search or medical that will keep you out overnight. You should have the essentials in your pack that will get you through the night. Maybe not a comfortable night, but a survivable one! And finally there is nothing worse than being the first on scene and you do not have the appropriate gear, you talk about embarrassment! I’ve been there and learned from it! So with this in mind, below is a list of suggested gear that we should all have in our patrol packs. I have broken it down into 3 sections. The first section is the gear that we all should have in our packs at all times. The second section I call is the “Would be nice” section. Gear to help make your or patients night out a little more pleasant, but optional. And the third section is gear that is totally up to you and is completely optional. Depending on what you like to have with you and how heavy of a pack that you want to carry.

Section One Essential Gear

1. Sturdy Pack
2. Parka/pants

3. Insulate pad (Large enough to keep your torso off the snow)
4. Snow Shovel
5. First aid kit (with the essentials to stop heavy bleeding in the field)
6. Headlamp
7. Down or synthetic filled vest or jacket (for added insulation for night out or patient)
8. Extra hat, mittens (a replacement for the one that blows off into the rim or for patient)
9. Spare socks
10. Extra food (power bars, dried fruit, anything that you can throw into bottom of pack for another season and forget about it)
11. Water
12. Lightweight nylon tarp (anything that will get you or patient out of weather)

Personal Items

1. (Sunglasses, sun screen, lip balm, ten essentials, etc.)
2. Some type of fire starting kit (paraffin soaked cardboard, lighter fluid, etc)
3. Radio & spare battery (at least one between the party)
4. Avalanche *transceiver*

Section Two

Would be nice

1. Small lightweight stove and small 1 cup pot to melt water
 2. Bivy sack
 3. Small lightweight sleeping bag (one or two pounder)
 4. Goggles
 5. Lightweight down or synthetic filled pants.
 6. More food
 7. More clothes
1. Heat Packs
 2. Candles
 3. Rubber utility gloves (great for digging snow caves & keeping main gloves dry)

Section Three

Optional items

1. Stethoscope
2. Blood pressure cuff
3. Sager splint
4. Air splints
5. Equipment repair kit (binding screws, wire duct tape, etc.)
6. Glow sticks (to mark location at night)
7. Flagging-
8. A-mid/tent
9. More food
10. More clothing

This is the list that I have been using for years. I don’t always carry everything on the list, but I always have the essentials and a few of the “would be nice” items in my pack at all times. Like I said before everyone has different needs and no two packs will be outfitted the same. If you see something on the list that should be there and is not, please let me know so I can update it. So anyway, when you get some spare time this summer spend some time buffing out your gear

for next season. Because, if you stay in this line of work. Sooner or later (it might only happen once), but someday, somewhere, you're going to be the first on scene and;

Ya gonna be Da Man, and Ya gonna need Da gear!

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

Crater Lake adopted the ICS for incidents at the park in the 1980's. It is now our exclusive system for incident management. Because of this, it is imperative that the Ski patrol be familiar with and understand ICS and how it functions.

The ICS is used to manage emergency and non-emergency events. It is the preferred organizational strategy utilized by SAR managers nationwide. The system has considerable internal flexibility. It can grow or shrink depending on the incident and needs. For example, Crater Lake's 100 year anniversary this past summer was managed under the ICS. This was an enormous planned event involving tens of thousands of dollars and over 100 people. By contrast, every minor EMS incident in the park is also managed utilizing the ICS. Let me use one example from last winter to illustrate how ICS adapts to the situation.

A call came in to Dispatch of a skier on the Hemlock trail with a twisted ankle. The report indicated that the woman was not seriously hurt but might need assistance getting out of the backcountry. A Ranger was dispatched to evaluate. The first person to respond immediately becomes the Incident Commander or IC. Anticipating the need for a litter crew, the IC immediately requested an Operational Chief to organize a litter crew and standby at the Incident Command Post. For this instance the ICP was established as the IC's vehicle in the Lodge parking lot. The IC began heading in the Hemlock trail to evaluate the patient. Upon initial assessment of the patient, the IC quickly recognized that the woman was in serious condition. Her injuries included head trauma with varying levels of consciousness and potential hy-



pothemia from prolonged sedentary exposure. Because the IC needed to provide medical treatment exclusively and could no longer manage the incident as IC, the Ranger passed IC status to another park employee who was standing by at the ICP. When possible always pass the IC off in person! The new IC should then address all staff on the radio identifying him/herself as the IC. The Ranger providing medical treatment

then became the EMS group leader. A Group can be any specialized team such as EMS, Hazmat or a Dog team. A Division by contrast divides an incident geographically. Think of the big fires in Southern Oregon this summer. Because of the sheer magnitude of the fires, it was necessary to create a Division A and B, one being stationed at Tiller, OR and the other in Crescent City, CA. Ski Patrol Volunteers generally function as a group member in some capacity. Most groups work underneath the Operational Section (OPS). The IC then directed OPS to send in the litter crew (working as a group) to package the patient. Due to the extent of injuries, the EMS group leader requested Life flight to transport the patient. The IC established an Air Operations Branch working under the Operations Section. Air Ops established a Landing Zone and provided for communications between the helicopter and the Ground Staff. Life flight landed, the patient was transferred and all individuals involved began clean up and examination of their equipment. Finally the IC held a hot debrief: an evaluation of the incident immediately after it occurs. All personnel involved are required to attend the debrief and provide input as to what went well and what can be improved upon next time. Hidden components of this incident would be the Logistics Section (generally Communications i.e. Dispatch), the Finance/Administration Section (responsible for keeping track of employees time worked and payment for such as well as procurement if purchases need to be made for the incident) and Planning Section (responsible for keeping track of the resources available, current situation, demobilization and documentation). In this incident, CRLA Dispatch functioned in these roles.

Don't be intimidated by the ICS! It has been used successfully for many years and has been found to be the organizational structure. The wonderful part of the ICS is consistency. After working with Ski Patrol, should you choose to volunteer with a fire dept or function in some other SAR capacity, you will find the same structure of ICS within their organization.

Questions? Further training needed? Keep the feedback coming. . .

Mary

Would you like to write a article for the next

Caldera Chronicles

If so, sent articles by March 15th to:

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REMEMBER TO ALWAYS :



Ski Safely and Have Fun!



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