

THE CALLOUT



SUMMER 2025

Vol. 4

From the President's Desk

Dear friends and supporters,

As we move through the heart of our busy season, I want to take a moment to share some exciting updates and extend our deepest gratitude to all who support our mission. The warm weather and longer days bring more people into our beautiful wild spaces—and with that, an increased need for the work our team does in collaboration with the Hood River County Sheriff's Office.

We are proud to report that our new Zodiac rescue boat is now fully operational and already proving its value in the field. This addition, alongside our aluminum search boat, has dramatically improved our ability to respond quickly and effectively to water-based emergencies on the Columbia River and nearby lakes. In fact, it has already played a crucial role in saving lives. Its speed, maneuverability, and capacity have elevated our water response capabilities to a new level.

Additionally, our new van, which provides us with a Mobile Command Center and Gear Garage, is officially in service. This resource allows us to deploy faster, stay better organized during complex operations, and ensure that our volunteers have quick access to critical equipment when time is of the essence. These upgrades not only support our team logistically but also strengthen our communication and coordination in the field—key factors in saving lives.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible generosity of our community and donors. Your financial support helped us acquire both the boat and the command unit—two major assets that directly contribute to the safety of both our rescuers and the public. On behalf of the entire Hood River County Search and Rescue team, thank you. Your belief in our mission empowers us to respond faster, operate safer, and ultimately, make a greater difference.

As always, we rely on the dedication of our volunteers—local citizens who train tirelessly and answer the call when someone is lost, injured, or in danger. And while we hope for a safe season for everyone enjoying the outdoors, we stand ready when the call comes in.

Thank you again for being part of the Team behind the Team. Your continued support makes it possible for us to serve this incredible community with pride and professionalism.

Stay safe and enjoy the season,



Jeff Tinnin
President,
Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue

THE CALLOUT

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Support PNWSAR
& Thank You

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32 YEARS



SINCE 1993

MID-SEASON RESCUE SUMMARY



SKAMANIA COUNTY

4

COLUMBIA RIVER

8

WASCO COUNTY

1

MULTNOMAH FALLS

1

HOOD RIVER COUNTY

18

MT. HOOD WILDERNESS

10

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

5

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

MT. HOOD

Between November 2024 and June 2025, PNWSAR teams responded to more than 40 incidents in Hood River County and beyond—including searches, rescues, patrols, specialty team events, and mutual aid requests.

From marine patrols on the Columbia River, to searching for lost hikers on Mt. Hood, to removing litter and debris from Multnomah Falls, PNWSAR teams provide versatile capabilities in all types of weather and terrain. We are proud to serve the diverse needs of the outdoor community in the Pacific Northwest. Read on for select rescue highlights.

PNWSAR has 75+ active members and maintains a contingent of volunteers ready to respond emergency situations—24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

BY THE NUMBERS — NOV/24 to JUN/25:



Total # of
Callouts &
Patrols: 48



Rope Support
Team (RST)
Missions: 2



Drone Support
Team (DST)
Missions: 8



Trail Running
Team (TRT)
Missions: 5



Swiftwater &
Marine (H2O)
Missions: 8



Total # of
hours spent
in the field: 318

RESCUE HIGHLIGHTS



Missing Mother and Child at Tamanawas Falls

May 10, 2025
Duration: 2h, 55m
Attendees: 25

On the afternoon of May 10th 2025, PNWSAR received a call that a hiking party had lost contact with a mother and small child from their group on the Tamanawas Falls trail. PNWSAR members were able to deploy swiftly from a nearby training mission, arriving on-site within minutes. After gathering information from the subjects' friends and family at the trailhead, PNWSAR sent three hasty search teams into the field. Meanwhile, other nearby SAR teams were activated and began to search the area.

After roughly 90 minutes, team 1 from PNWSAR found the subjects resting about a mile from the main trail and provided them with water and food. A medical assessment determined that both subjects were mobile and uninjured, and after combining with other SAR teams who had arrived at the rescue location, the subjects were escorted back to the trailhead where they were reunited with their party.



Missing Skamania Bigfoot Hunters

December 26-27, 2024
Duration: 20h, 30m
Attendees: 23

The day after Christmas 2024, PNWSAR was requested for a mutual aid mission in Skamania County. Two Bigfoot hunters who had been out searching for the elusive creature for several days were reported missing. On the afternoon of the 26th, PNWSAR assembled and deployed ground search teams into the field and activated our drone search (DST) specialty team. Hiking over difficult terrain and in inclement weather, the teams worked into the evening until darkness prevented any further work.

The following morning, our search teams re-deployed. Working into the afternoon, PNWSAR searchers were able to conclude the mission. While our team always hopes for a positive mission outcome, we were grateful to help provide closure for the families of the missing subjects. Improvised water crossings, difficult winter weather, and multi-team collaboration made this a challenging but valuable multi-day mission which garnered national media attention.



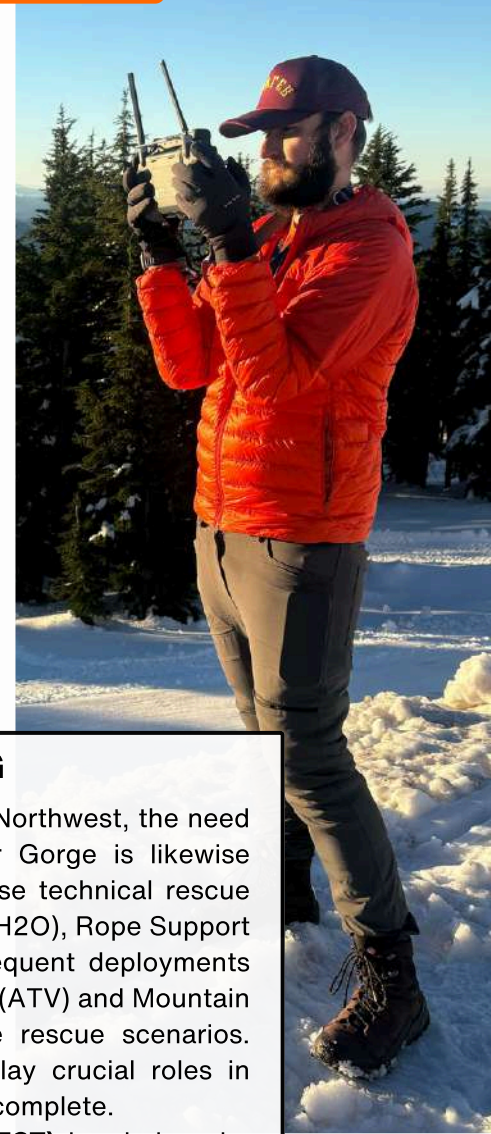
Mutual Aid for Injured Hiker on Dog Mountain

May 17, 2025
Duration: 5h, 45m
Attendees: 21

Just after noon on May 17th 2025, the Skamania County Sheriff's Office sent out a mutual aid request for an injured hiker on Dog Mountain. Local SAR teams were on the heels of multiple consecutive callouts, and PNWSAR was able to respond quickly to establish a base at the trailhead. Multiple PNWSAR teams were sent up the mountain while a radio relay station was set up across the Columbia River at Starvation Creek State Park.

With the effective communication enabled, teams were able to reach the subject quickly and begin treatment and transport preparation. Navigating high and gusty winds, the subject was transported down the mountain by litter and returned to the trailhead where medical personnel were waiting. The PNWSAR logistics crew was also on site and provided support to incoming team members. The speed and logistical coordination of this mission was an inspiring success for our team.

PNWSAR TECHNICAL TEAMS

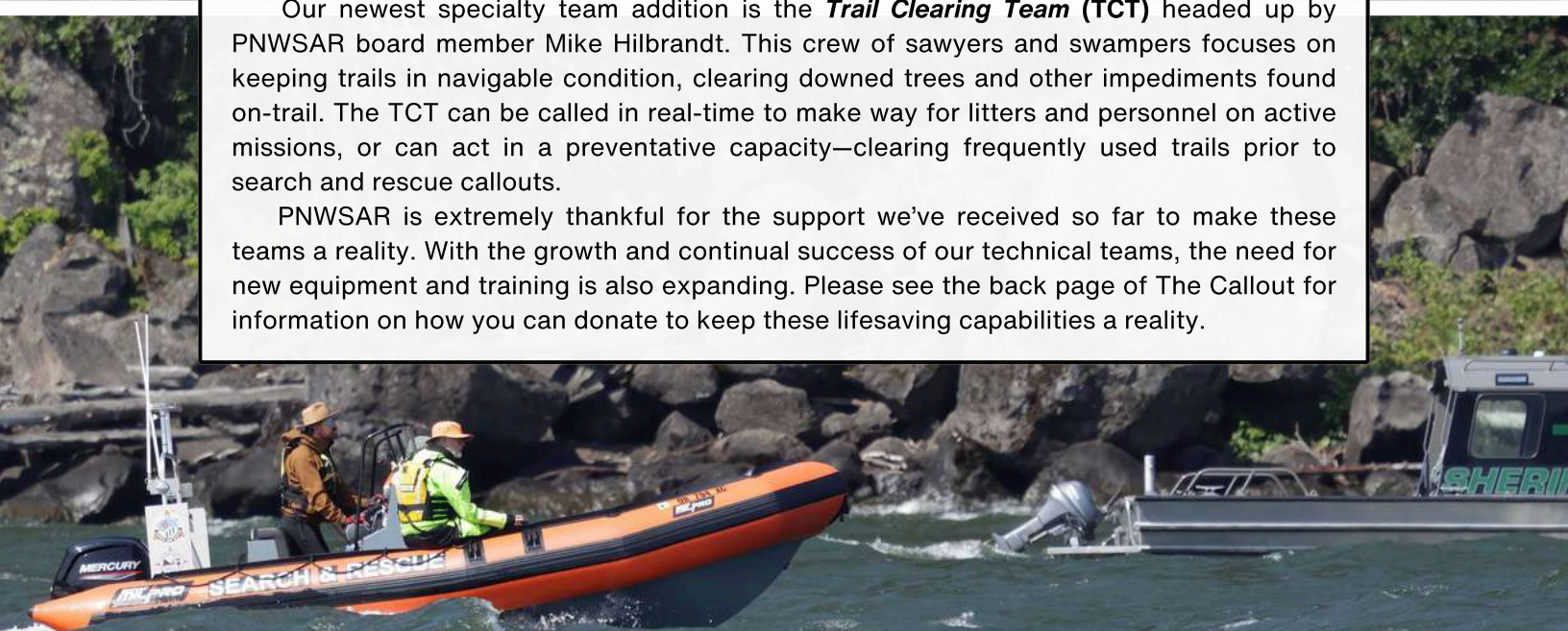


OUR SPECIALTY TEAMS ARE GROWING

With the increasing interest in outdoor activities across the Pacific Northwest, the need for specialty rescue techniques in and around the Columbia River Gorge is likewise growing. PNWSAR has dramatically scaled up operations around these technical rescue scenarios over the last several years. Our Swiftwater / Marine Rescue (H2O), Rope Support (RST), Trail Running (TRT), and Drone Support (DST) teams see frequent deployments season-to-season. Other specialty units such as the All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and Mountain Biking (MBT) teams can be called upon for unique, long-distance rescue scenarios. Additionally, our Logistics and Emotional Resiliency (ERT) teams play crucial roles in providing member support—both out in the field and after missions are complete.

Our newest specialty team addition is the **Trail Clearing Team (TCT)** headed up by PNWSAR board member Mike Hilbrandt. This crew of sawyers and swampers focuses on keeping trails in navigable condition, clearing downed trees and other impediments found on-trail. The TCT can be called in real-time to make way for litters and personnel on active missions, or can act in a preventative capacity—clearing frequently used trails prior to search and rescue callouts.

PNWSAR is extremely thankful for the support we've received so far to make these teams a reality. With the growth and continual success of our technical teams, the need for new equipment and training is also expanding. Please see the back page of The Callout for information on how you can donate to keep these lifesaving capabilities a reality.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Reel Rock Film Fest



Multnomah Falls Cleanup



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
- Oregon Department of Human Services - Child Welfare
- Oregon Department of Justice
- PLEXSYS
- Sig Sauer
- Verisk Analytics

Hood River Fourth of July Parade



Have you spotted PNWSAR members in your neck of the woods recently? Over the past few months, it was hard to miss our orange-clad volunteers removing debris at the annual *Multnomah Falls cleanup*, manning a booth at the *Reel Rock Film Festival* in Portland, or riding atop our new boat in the *Hood River 4th of July Parade* (just to name a few). Come out and say hi to our volunteers attending one of these **upcoming community events**:

AUG 26

Full Sail Tuesdays
www.instagram.com/fullsailbrewing/

AUG 27

OMSI After Dark
www.oms.edu/events

AUG 30

Columbia River Swim
columbiariverswim.com

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



WATER SAFETY

Guest special by PNWSAR volunteer Sam Levinson

It's time to beat the heat in the Pacific Northwest! For many of us in Oregon and Washington, that means heading to the lakes or rivers that we're lucky to have as part of our natural landscape. It's important to keep safety in mind as we flock to the water, because days at the beach can quickly turn tragic if we're not aware of the potential hazards. Here are some water safety tips for you and your whole family to make sure your time in the water is both safe and fun:

- Sign up for swim lessons for you and your kids. According to the American Red Cross, 54% of American adults and 61% of children don't have basic swimming skills. Organizations like the WaterStrong Initiative and the Black Swimming Initiative offer free lessons for underserved and underrepresented groups.
- Wear a properly-fitted life jacket when in and around the water. Even competent swimmers can get into trouble on the water. Life jackets are designed to keep your head above water so that if there's a problem, you can still breathe. Some recreational sites like Hagg Lake have life jackets that you can borrow for free while you're there. Make sure the life jacket fits snugly so you can't pull it above your ears for a proper fit.
- Don't jump into the water. Water levels vary based on the amount of rain and meltwater from the mountains, and cloudy water in rivers and lakes makes it difficult to judge the depth. If you jump into water that's too shallow, you can injure your legs or back. Wading in from shore is a much safer way to get into the water and assess what activities will be safe in that area.
- Expect drop-offs. The bottom can suddenly slip away from under you even near the shore of a lake or river. That sudden change can be pretty scary even for experienced swimmers, and shorter swimmers may literally find themselves in over their heads. Keep an eye on your kids as they head out into the water, and show them where the drop-offs are. Some popular swimming locations have roped-in areas to distinguish safe and shallow areas from more hazardous spots.
- Be aware of the current if you're recreating in a river. The river might not look fast from the surface, but the undercurrent can quickly carry you downstream if you're not careful. Currents vary based on the water levels and tide, and the water moves faster the farther you are from shore. Stick close to shore where your feet can touch the bottom.
- Keep air and water temperatures in mind when heading to the water. Air temperatures tend to increase much more quickly during the warm months than water temperatures do. You can still get chilled on warm days if you spend a lot of time in the cold water. When the air and water temperatures added together are less than 100°F, the risk of hypothermia is much higher. Everyone's tolerance for cold water is different, and kids get colder faster. Bring plenty of towels and changes of dry clothes so that everyone can dry off and get comfortable after a day spent in the water.

Following these tips will help keep you and your loved ones safe and enjoying the water for years to come!

HOW DO I CALL SEARCH AND RESCUE?

Utilize Handheld Satellite Devices

Handheld satellite communicators—including SPOT and Garmin inReach devices—and some cell phones allow users to communicate with the 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 personnel 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.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

New Member: Trish Schales

When did you join the team?

I joined PNWSAR in 2024 as part of the fabulous spicy pickle cohort :)

What is your day job?

I'm an outdoor guide and educator with a passion for introducing beginners to the outdoors. I began my journey working in the high deserts of Utah and Oregon as a Wilderness Therapy Field Guide during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. When that company closed unexpectedly, I began guiding with REI, leading adventures in both Portland and Yellowstone. In 2024 REI also shut down unexpectedly and I founded Trails Diverged. Through Trails Diverged, I strive to create meaningful and empowering experiences in the outdoors and educate beginners on ways to recreate safely and sustainably.

What is your background with outdoor recreation and emergency response?

My first Search and Rescue experiences began while living in Minnesota, I aided a team focused primarily on cold cases and recovery missions. I grew up in the Detroit-Metro area and came to outdoor recreation later in life. I made up for the lost outdoor time- after thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail, there was no going back to a life indoors. I maintain Wilderness First Responder certification and hope to do WFR-EMR bridge coursework this year.

How did you hear about / connect with PNWSAR?

When I moved to Oregon in 2021, I started "following" many SAR teams, but with my unorthodox guiding schedule and lack of free time, I wasn't able to commit to the long, rigorous training process most teams require. Finally, in 2024, I was able to secure management approval for time off to pursue SAR. While I chose PNWSAR because our territory proximity to my home-base, it was immediately evident that I found the right team not only in proximity- but also in heart. The laughter, the care and concern, the genuine desire to help—it was all immediately evident at my first "guest" meeting.

What are you most looking forward to being a member of PNWSAR?

I'm looking forward to gaining experience acrossed a variety mission types, continuing to grow and learn from my incredibly inspiring teammates, and getting to connect with more of them on a personal level now that my prospect year and certifications are complete!



What is your favorite part of being a PNWSAR team member?

I love arriving at a mission, looking around and seeing that I'm surrounded by a sea of orange... humans that dropped everything to come out and help others. This team shows up. It's incredibly inspiring to be surrounded by such amazing humans. I'm constantly blown away by their kindness, generosity, and unwavering dedication to growth; always pushing to improve through training, education, and honest feedback. Being part of this community is already one of the most meaningful experiences of my life.

Favorite trail snack?

Flamin' Hot Dill Pickle Cheetos and a brick of cheese with a side of electrolytes :)

Interested in Joining PNWSAR?

Contact our recruiting coordinator at

recruitment@pnwsar.org

or visit pnwsar.org for more information.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



Long-time Member: Jamie Reckers

Has served as: Vice President, Training Committee Co-Chair, Mountain Bike Team Member, Trail Running Team Member, EMS Committee Member, Elections Committee Member

When did you join the team?
2020 – the covid cohort!

What is your day job?
I'm an ICU nurse.

What is your favorite part of being a PNWSAR team member?

Working with a community of highly skilled, professional, life-loving, and absolutely generous people that make up this team and the privilege of turning someone's worst day into one of hope and relief.

How has SAR changed since you started?

With ever improving technology available to the broader public we've seen more rescues than searches. And the technology in our team has really developed – we now have drones, a motorized litter and have moved from handheld GPS only devices to using Caltopo on our phones. All of this allows us to be faster and more efficient in our work.

How has being with PNWSAR changed you?

The greatest impact is on the way that I approach safety both in the wilderness and in my daily life. I definitely spend more time considering how to be prepared when I'm out adventuring.

Favorite trail snack?

Annie's brand bunny snacks, leftover pizza, olives & cheese.

What are some of the most memorable moments in your time with PNWSAR?

I love bringing new people onto the team, getting to know them, watching them learn and celebrating their achievements. Our annual trainee selection day is always so much fun and so many good stories and often good nicknames come out of that day. I also just really love getting out on trail for a mission with any of our members – whether we go 10 steps or 10 miles into the field it ALWAYS feels worth it.



SUPPORT PNWSAR & THANK YOU

Over the past 9 months, Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue marked two major milestones: First, through an extremely generous grant provided by our friends at the Columbia Gorge Wind and Water Association, we purchased, outfitted, and deployed a new Zodiac rescue boat. This resource provides the team with essential water-based rescue capabilities, and enables us to continue our life-saving marine patrols on the Columbia River—aiding the wind-sport enthusiast community in and around Hood River County.

Second, PNWSAR was accepted into last year's Willamette Week Give!Guide for the first time. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, we raised over \$20,000 from more than 250 individual donations. And there's more great news: PNWSAR was accepted once again into the Give!Guide for 2025! We are thrilled to be a part of this unique giving campaign again this year. Keep an eye out for more details in the next issue of The Callout.



None of what we do at Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue would be possible without *you*, our supporters. We welcome donations any time, whether it be a general contribution to “keep the lights on” (funding our core logistics and ground search operations), or a donation to help cover the cost of one of our current team needs:

- Advanced training (medical & technical certifications)
- Specialty team equipment (e.g., ropes, drones, marine rescue)
- New team van & mobile command center
- Donations in honor/memory of an individual

You can donate any time by mailing a paper check or **scanning the QR code below**. Let us know in the *Note* or *Memo* field of the donation form/check if you wish to support one of the specific needs above. All donations are tax deductible, and no donation is ever too small. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support, and once again **THANK YOU!**



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