



Supporting The Efforts Of Mountain Rescue Operations

vailmountainrescue.org

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People love to travel to the 10th Mountain Division Huts. The following are rescues that resulted from two of those visits:



At 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, two backcountry skiers called 911 to report that they were lost in the backcountry north of Vail Village. After taking a wrong turn on the Spraddle Creek Trail en route to the Eiseman Hut (10th Mountain Division Huts) the previous evening, the couple skied into a drainage on Mount Baldy and spent the night outdoors. Cold, tired, out of water and with their cell phone batteries nearly depleted, they requested assistance in finding their way back to the trailhead. Vail Mountain Rescue Group dispatched a team of backcountry skiers to Spraddle Creek, who began ascending the trail in difficult snow conditions to coordinates gleaned from the lost party's cell phones. In all, 15 VMRG team member responded to the mission. After locating the lost party in deep snow on a thickly treed slope choked with fallen timber, the first team of rescuers assisted the lost party back to the trail, while a second team of VMRG rescuers met the party on the Eiseman Hut trail and together proceeded back to the trailhead. Rescue operations concluded just after 6 p.m.

Just before 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, a snowboarder called 911 to report that he was lost in the wilderness south of Vance's Cabin (another 10th Mountain Division backcountry hut near Cooper Spur). Lightly dressed and without a headlamp, food, or water, the snowboarder had been post-holing through deep snow for two hours after taking a wrong turn while snowboarding alone and could not find his way back to Vance's Cabin, where he was staying with a group of friends. Vail Mountain Rescue Group dispatched a team of three rescuers, who snowmobiled to Vance's Cabin then snowshoed toward coordinates derived from the lost snowboarder's cell phone. After giving the subject food and water and equipping him with a headlamp and snowshoes, rescuers then escorted the snowboarder back to Vance's Cabin. Rescue operations concluded just after midnight on Friday morning.

These were VMRG's 31st and 32nd missions of the 2018 calendar year.

Have a prosperous—and safe—2018!

Thank you for continuing to support Vail Mountain Rescue! With great appreciation,

Thomas Howard

President, Friends of Mountain Rescue

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