Presenter Bios:

Rocky Henderson is a 32-year veteran of Portland Mountain Rescue (PMR), a past President of the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) and continues to be involved at the local, regional and national level in various rescue related projects. He is a long time attendee of ITRS/NTRS and is well known to ITRS presenters as the guy who always has a pertinent and insightful question.

Dave Clarke has been a volunteer member of Portland Mountain Rescue since 2000. He is a former instructor with the CMC Rescue School, and is a retired Captain of the Gresham OR Fire Department where he was in charge of the department's rope and confined space rescue teams. He is a past MRA president and a former presenter at ITRS.

Abstract:

In 2010 at the MRA conference in Juneau Alaska, a seed of an idea for a pike and pivot litter bridle was planted during a discussion between Jim Frank of CMC Rescue, Garin Wallace formerly of SMC, Fran and Jeff Sharp of Tacoma Mountain Rescue, and your presenters. Since then Rocky has experimented with various versions of the concept, fine-tuning it along the way.

It is generally accepted that when a high directional is not available, the pike and pivot method getting a litter up over an edge makes a difficult edge transition much easier on the rescuers. It is therefore safer and faster than trying to muscle a loaded litter over an edge. Many other pike and pivot methods require adding a separate bridle component just for the pike and pivot edge transition. The presenters feel that these methods add to the system complexity, require more equipment, and increase the chance of rescuer mistakes as well.

This presentation will demonstrate the multi-purpose, lightweight litter bridle, which Portland Mountain Rescue (PMR) has been using successfully for several years. It allows a litter attendant to change a litter from horizontal to vertical to a pike and pivot configuration. All of the functional parts are contained in the existing bridle - so there is no need to add or remove components while on the cliff face, thereby reducing the chance for error and simplifying the rigging. Finally, this system is lighter and faster to implement than an artificial high directional or other pike and pivot systems.