

RESCUE HAS BEEN THE VOICE OF IMSARU SINCE JANUARY 1962

Founding Member: Mountain Rescue Association

Rescue

Web Edition



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[Missing skiers at Bogus Basin—Pg 2&3](#)

[Thank you. Thank you—Pg3](#)

[How do we Prep for Missions—Pg 3](#)

[Welcome New Members—Pg 3](#)

[Training Schedules—Pg 4](#)

[Avalanche Field Training—Pg 5](#)

[Mea Culpa—Pg 6](#)
[Man Tracker & Tech Training—Pg 6](#)

[2017 MRA Conference—Pg 7](#)



Press on the calendar to see upcoming events

Mountain Rescue Association 2017 Spring Conference

📍 BOISE, ID 📅 JUNE 2-4, 2017

IMSARU.ORG/SARCON

WANT TO PARTICIPATE? EMAIL SARCON@IMSARU.ORG



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[Back to Top](#)

MISSING SKIERS AT BOGUS BASIN – JANUARY 19, 2017
--MIKE JOHNSON and KEN SWICKARD

At around 5 p.m., Boise County Dispatch called IMSARU to assist BCSO in locating three lost teenage skiers at Bogus Basin. Nine members responded, with others arriving to help load equipment in the rescue trucks 901 and 902, and get them ready to roll.

We received the subjects' approximate location based on a couple of cell phone "pings" that put them just to the south of Deer Point, but didn't know if they were moving nor, if so, in which direction. Based on that, we decided to send a team up Highway 21 to the Grimes Creek Road, then to Clear Creek Road, while the rest of the group made their way to Bogus Basin Ski Area.

Just before all responders left the Compound, new information came in that Clear Creek Road was blocked by snowfall just beyond the Clear Creek/Grimes Creek roads' intersection, so all three vehicles headed to Bogus Basin. We also received updated position information on the subjects. This time, actual coordinates had been relayed from one subject to his parents, then forwarded through BCSO Dispatch to us.

Truck 901 stopped at the Shafer Butte service road (which was unplowed and under 40-50 inches of snow) about ten miles below the Ski Area and Team 1 (four-person team) started to snowshoe toward the new location that was below the service road, about 1.5 to 2 miles in. One member stayed with 901 to act as a relay between the field team and the Command Base that would be set up at Bogus Basin Ski Area.

Truck 902 and our POV continued up to Bogus Basin and began working the mission from there, utilizing the Ski Patrol HQ as our Command Base. We were able to contact Bogus Basin's general manager and get a Snow Cat groomer to move over the top, through the boundary gate, and start down the Shafer Butte service road toward the subjects' location and our Team 1.

At the Command Base, we made indirect contact with the subject via one of the parents and formed a plan for the skiers to move toward the service road. They knew exactly where it was, so our OL was comfortable with them being on the move rather than staying put.

Once we knew (with reasonable certainty) where the subjects were, the OL began looking at terrain and slope angles, determining potential risk of avalanche. (Good thing we had just done our avalanche class and field practice the previous week!) The subjects' location was right on the border of either a 40-degree slope or a 21-degree slope. When Team 1 had moved on the road to where they felt they were parallel to the subjects, they started moving directly toward them.

The subjects had almost come to a complete stop due to exhaustion when Team 1 made contact with them below the service road, just as the Snow Cat moved into position above. Team 1's leader determined that they were now in the 21-degree slope area and, after the subjects' medical assessments, decided they could assist the subjects. All made their way to the Snow Cat and were shuttled back to the Ski Patrol shack. [Note: If the subjects had still been in the 40-degree slope area, IMSARU would have issued a second call-out for the Tech Team to rope the subjects up to the Snow Cat.]

(continued on p. 3)

(Missing Skiers, cont.)

All three teenagers were in good shape, albeit exhausted, from their hike up the hill. It appeared that they had moved almost 1,000 vertical feet below the service road. Of course their parents were very happy to see them and thanked IMSARU for responding. The National Ski Patrol and the General Manager of Bogus Basin Ski Area were instrumental in helping us bring this mission to a successful conclusion.

IMSARU members responding included Darryl Beemer, Chris Brookman, William Burdge, Delinda Castellon, Jim Findley, Mike Johnson (O.L.) Israel Shirk, Ken Swickard and Eddie-Dean Thomas. Rod Knopp was in-town Coordinator, and thanks go to Don Fridrich and other members who responded to the Compound to help get the responders on their way.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
for your cash donations:

David & Rena Ferguson

Charles & Elaine Gill

Betty & Jack Robertson

We also thank our anonymous donors, including all who gave via the Intermountain Combined Federal Campaign.

Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, with the missions of Search, Rescue, and Safety Education. We respond when called by official agencies, and we never charge those whom we are called to help.

Financial support of our training and missions is supplied by members' dues, donations from individuals and groups, sales of corn-on-the-cob at the Western Idaho Fair, occasional grants, and some reimbursement of direct mission expenses from the State Search & Rescue Fund.

HOW DO WE PREPARE FOR MISSIONS?

The following page contains a list of trainings currently scheduled for our entire team as well as for two of our specialty teams, K-9 and Mantracking. The Technical and Mountain Bike teams also maintain regular training, but schedules were not available at printing time. All of the specialty teams do their training in addition to their involvement with the larger unit.

Our members spent over 4,700 person-hours on training during 2016.

Our members spent 2993.7 person-hours on missions and drove 14,820 vehicle miles and our certified search dogs spent 98.55 hours in the field.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

The following eleven applicants completed our most recent SAR Academy on February 1-3: Timothy Agenbroad, Mitchell Bliss, Ted Brown, Jacob Bunch, Lindsay Glick, Nikela Harris, Eric Hieronymus, John Mras, Sarah O'Leary, Jerramy Stinnett and Christopher Weltner. Six of these people also completed their pack checks and are now eligible to participate in three-season missions.

GENERAL TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 2017

NOTE: Classroom sessions start at 7 p.m. at the Compound. Time & Place for Field sessions will be announced at that time. Names are planned instructors; all is subject to change based on mission calls, weather, instructors' availability, etc.

March 14	Patient Packaging/Litter – Classroom	Chris Brookman & Jeff Munn
March 18	Patient Packaging/Litter – Field	
April 18	Navigation – Classroom	Jim Findley, Jamie Simpson
April 22	Navigation – Field	& Chris Brookman
May 9	Mission Software/Coms – Classroom	Chris Brookman, Jamie
May 13	Mock Mission – Field	Simpson & Jeff Munn
June 13	Equipment & Vehicles – at the Compound	
June 17-18	Overnight Bivouac – Field	Chris Brookman & Ann Moser
July 11	Swiftwater Awareness – Classroom	Jim Findley & Jeff Munn
July 15	Swiftwater Awareness – Field	
August	No Training – Corn Booth Preparation and Operation	
Sept. 12	SAR Management – Classroom	
Sept 16	SAR Management – Field	
Oct. 10	Navigation – Classroom	Jamie Simpson & Chris Brookman
Oct. 14	Navigation – Field	
Nov. 14	Air Ops – Classroom	Chris Brookman & Ken Swickard
Nov. 18	Air Ops – Field	

K-9 TRAINING DATES & ORGANIZERS

Feb. 26	Taylor Grisham
March 12	Linda Kearney
March 26	Andy Stehling
April 9	Jamie Simpson
April 23	Ann Moser

MANTRACKER TRAINING DATES & ORGANIZERS

March 11	Linda Kearney, Mike Rowe & Jimmie Yorgensen
March 18-19	Train the Trainers Joel Hardin Seminar
March 27	Vicki & Ken Swickard

AVALANCHE FIELD TRAINING – JANUARY 14, 2017 **--KRISTIN FREEMAN**

The monthly Tuesday-evening training session on January 10 was a class on avalanche survival and rescue at the Larry Novak Compound. On Saturday, January 14, twelve IMSARU members and two reporters from KBOI TV went to a site in the Clear Creek area to practice the skills taught in the classroom. The first thing the trainees learned in this outdoor session was that the training would not be held in the usual location because it was inaccessible, due to an avalanche.

Trainees put on skis or snowshoes, 24-hour packs, and avalanche beacons, and learned how to test their beacons. After that, they were divided into three groups and rotated through stations where they learned to use direction-finding to locate an avalanche beacon buried in the snow; how to deploy probes and use them to search an area; and how to use direction-finding to locate an avalanche beacon buried in the snow.

When all trainees had successfully demonstrated beacon search, probe search, and excavation, they divided into two groups for scenario training—the scenario being that two victims had been buried in an avalanche. One team took about ten minutes to locate and dig out the buried beacon that simulated one victim, and the other team spent about six minutes.

In a final, real-world demonstration of excavation skills, the team worked on digging out a truck belonging to one of the members, which got stuck in the snow. In the end, it took Chris Brookman using a tow strap provided by Ron Christensen to get it out!

Training was organized by Mike Johnson. Chris Brookman, Ron Christensen and John Ferguson led the skill stations, and Aaron Burdin set up the scenario.



Photo by
Attila Sipiczki

MEA CULPA —CHARLOTTE GUNN

The November-December issue had a few paragraphs about our annual Christmas party, including the presentation of “The Rock” award to Jimmie Yorgensen. However, this editor’s brain failed to publish the other recipient of the same award, Tom Wheless.

Tom has been an IMSARU member for perhaps more years than he wants to admit. In addition to active participation in training and missions, Tom has spent untold hours on our vehicles, communications and other vital equipment to be sure they are ready to go when the calls come. He is quick to pitch in whenever there is work to be done, and has high standards for doing it well. He also keeps his eyes and mind open for potential improvements, and shares those with others. Tom, you have more than earned this award and I hope you will forgive my elderly brain’s lapse.

MANTRACKERS TRAIN INDOORS ON “CRIME SCENE.”

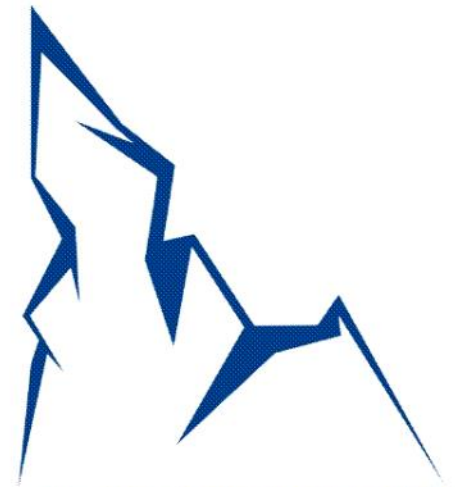
—Photo by Mike Rowe



TECH TEAM TRAINING AT SNOWBANK

Chris Brookman created a scenario with a volunteer subject; the team had to locate, give medical assistance, and package him; then set up a high-angle system and pull him back up to the parking area. The truck got stuck while we were finishing the scenario, so Chris used a tow strap to help pull the stuck truck out of the snowbank. We then finished the training by practicing construction of various snow anchors.

—Text and photos by Dodi Newbill



IDAHO 2017
MRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BOISE, ID | JUNE 2-4 | IDAHO MTN SAR UNIT

**Call for Speakers deadline:
March 1st, 2017**

The SAR Conference will be held in beautiful downtown Boise, Idaho, at the Riverside Hotel, this coming June 2-4, 2017. This is an annual gathering of mountain rescue professionals. SARCON2017 is a multifaceted exposition featuring instructional tracks and trade-show that caters exclusively to decision-makers and SAR professionals involved in all aspects of search and rescue. Subject matter includes mountain rescue techniques and skills, search skills and management, use of canines, and other pertinent information. Session attendees will seek positive, practical input for a proactive approach to search and rescue. Attendees will include professionals, both paid and non-paid, in all aspects of search and rescue from throughout the United States and abroad. From Search and Rescue professionals and incident commanders to first year members, all will have the opportunity to learn new skills and share their knowledge with peers. Attendees will represent many job functions, but will all share a similar passion: search and rescue.

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The MRA conference is open to all, the general public is welcome.

Pre-Conference Events:

- A guided climbing excursion to Idaho's tallest peak, Mt. Borah.
- Partner and Self Rescue seminar
- Lightweight and Technical Equipment class instructed by Robert Delaney
- Human Remains Detection training for K9s
- K9 scenarios/skills workshop
- Track Aware class
- Evidence Search Tracking taught by Joel Hardin.

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Summary of Events:

- Wilderness Medicine
- Clandestine Drug Operations
- Kalston's Side Scan Sonar
- Water Safety
- Emotional First Aid
- Avalanche Safety
- Rescue Rope Testing
- Social events including a banquet
- MRA Business Meeting
- Landing Zone Operator and NOAA
- Idaho State Communication

For registration information visit:

www.imsaru.org/sarcon

Early Bird Registration ends April 15

[Back to Top](#)