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# RESCUE

IDAHO MOUNTAIN SEARCH  
AND RESCUE UNIT, INC  
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MEMBER:  
MOUNTAIN RESCUE  
ASSOCIATION  
SINCE 1960



## SWAN FALLS MISSION, PARTS 3 AND 4 (APRIL 20 AND 25--FINAL REPORT) --CHARLOTTE GUNN

We were still looking for the body of the young man who had tried to swim across the Snake River, about two miles below Swan Falls Dam. Leslie Robertson took Mingo down on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and Mingo had very strong alerts on the same area where the dogs had indicated before; he also alerted on shore where the current visibly swung in.

On the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Leslie and Mingo returned, together with Pam Green and Inca, George and Charlotte Gunn with Hobo, and a dog team from another group (who asked not to be named.) This time, the family had made arrangements with a team of hard-hat divers from California who would drive up on Monday with their equipment, including an underwater camera, and dive on Tuesday if the dogs still gave a position of the body and if the current did not exceed 4 mph.

We were again working with Gene Ralston, whose experience as a river hydrologist is even more valuable than his differential GPS and on-board computer. All four dogs alerted in the same scent line, with Inca having really strong



Gene Ralston explains to family and searchers just what the chart shows.

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Deadline of the 20th of the month is required for material to be included in the next month's issue.

hits. Gene showed the hit locations to Sgt. Roberson, Lt. Rany and the family, and drew on the map the prime search area. The family then made the decision to have the divers come. This dive team was on the road when the body was found floating downstream at around ten o'clock the next morning. Estimated float time from our search scene to the point of recovery is about four hours, so we assume that the dogs were indeed accurate when they told us over a period of four weeks that "he is still right here."

We certainly prefer searches with happy endings, but gladly offer our services wherever we might be able to help ease people's minds. In this instance, due to the dangerous water conditions, the family waited a month before being able to move on to the next step in the grieving and healing process. We offer them our deepest sympathy.

## **TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING, APRIL 24, OR YOU HAVE ME CLIMBING THE WALLS --BY GEORGE SHAFFER**



Tim and George, playing on the wall at Nampa Rec.

Time for the Nampa Recreation Center climbing wall, and to practice. You never know when somebody's gonna need rescued. Thanks to the Gunns for supplying entry passes for all who attended.

We practiced anchors with pulleys, and the anchor system for raising or lowering people and the litter. We split up and a "victim" went up the wall. The rescue members went up and set anchors above the victim while others set up an intricate anchor system using physics, webbing, algebra, geometry and carabiners. When we were set and secure, up went the rescue team and down came the victim. Then our leaders Mutt and Jeff went up the wall (to fetch a pail of water!) They knew how it was supposed to work, and we would

learn as they went. So we set up a raising system and set up a lowering system and then we set it up again and again and.... What fun! Let's do it again! YEAH!

All this learning could come in handy any day, especially with nice weather finally arriving. I used to climb a lot, without rope or protection—years of too close encounters and dumb luck. Lately, a few others haven't been so lucky. It is fun when you feel safe. Try it!



Paula discovers the joy of climbing.

Participants included Brad Deteau, Aimee Hastriter, Tim Henning, James Koch, Alex LaBeau, Paula McCollum, Dave McDermott, Eric Mundell, Jeff Munn, Jerry Newland, Liana Pope, Debbi Shaffer, George Shaffer, Tom Wheless and Keith Whitaker



Oh, for the good old days, when climbing and technical rescue meant a length of goldline, a few pitons and maybe a diaper sling....

### **THE GREAT POTATO RACE--MAY 1, 1999 --CHARLOTTE GUNN**

A marathon, a half-marathon, a 10K, a 5K....For the Great Potato you can choose your starting point and time, and end up at the finish line picnic in Ann Morrison Park. Rod Knopp and Leslie Robertson organized IMSARU's help with communications and first aid; Rod then stayed on the radio at the Compound while Leslie co-opted her visiting sister and mother to run a water station where a group had failed to show up, and herself toured Boise in 903 in response to various calls. In the meantime, Aaron Garrison was prowling the street sections of the race route in 901 while Jim Koch and Patrick Kimball got their exercise on mountain bikes along the greenbelt stretches and George and Charlotte Gunn occupied the finish-line station.

We treated a few cramps, a few major blisters, an assortment of other problems, but it was mostly peaceful—and the food was good. We helped cheer Charley across the finish line before heading home. Note to those who thought about volunteering but didn't: We really should have had a second person in 901 and in 903. And if you are at all into mountain biking, this is the event where your skill is absolutely essential.

## **FIELD CERTIFICATION CLASS, MAY 22 --BY PAM GREEN, NEW MEMBER COORDINATOR**

In attendance for our second Field Certification class of 1999 were Aimee Hastriter, Patrick Kimball, Paula McCollum, Dave McDermott, Pat Pauley, Marie Pauley and T.J. Smith. Instructors for the class were Mick Riffie (Training Director) and Jeff Munn.

In addition to the class instruction, Aimee Hastriter, Patrick Kimball, Paula McCollum and Dave McDermott completed their basic pack checks. They are now qualified to be called for non-technical missions. Congratulations to all of you, and welcome to the active call-out list.

## **GUARDIAN MEDEVAC—MAY 4, 1999 --BY CHARLOTTE GUNN**

The General Meeting program this month was a presentation by Tom Cook and Harry Kahn on the Guardian Medevac unit, including its resources, responsibilities and under what circumstances they can assist in civilian missions: When loss of life, limb or eyesight is imminent, and Life Flight can't take the call. Lots of people thrill to the very word "helicopter"; our members who have been around for a few years remember some missions where that machine saved lives that would probably otherwise have been lost. Think about the out-of-bounds skier from Bogus, the lost snowmobilers near Pilot's Peak, the lost hunter in Elko County....



The winch-equipped Guardian Medevac impressed everyone at the St. Al's Emergency Services Fair, especially when it blew over the portable toilets.

We are looking forward to additional training this summer, to cover more about safety around helicopters and loading/unloading procedures. Probably everyone in our unit except Pam (who doesn't want to fly on

anything smaller than a 747) and I (who had a scary introduction to helicopters during a mission near Warren) hopes to be part of a team that gets chopper transport on a mission. We all thank Tom Cook and Harry Kahn for getting us back in touch.

## **SAFETY ED HOURS**

**Safety Education** is one of our basic goals. Safety Education coordinator Eric Mundell announced at the May business meeting that we have, to date in 1999, done 29 presentations with 27 different instructors; these sessions have totaled 753 contact hours.

## THE COMPOUND LOOKS BETTER, YES?

--BY CHARLOTTE GUNN

O.K., so you could think of more pleasant things to do on a sunny Saturday morning, May 15, than clean up our property. But it needed to be done and we made a good start on it. We whacked acres of weeds, installed landscaping cloth and wheeled a million barrows of gravel behind the garage to make that a low-maintenance area, rearranged furniture and installed new shelves in the office area, replaced the bulletin boards, cleaned up bits of trash and half a ton of nails where the old building was removed.... There's still lots to be done, and we hope more of you will show up next time. (This is not the thrilling excitement for which you joined IMSARU, but it is a very necessary part of maintenance—and working together is a good way to get to know people.)

In the meantime, thank some of the people who did the work: Steve Argyle (on a break from his paying job), Rick Cudd, Pam Green, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Aimee Hastriter, Tim Henning, Diane Mathews, Jeff Munn, Leslie Robertson. And know that you missed the famous hot dogs by Rod Knopp, dessert of strawberries and chocolate shortcake, and a chance to visit with Bob Kline and Everett Wood. You might even ask Pam and Leslie to tell you how and why they cleaned up the squashed squirrel.

### NOW HEAR THIS

**Fill the tank.** When you return a unit truck to the Compound after service for training, mission or public service event, please fill the gas tank at our friendly Amoco neighbor. The charge card is with the vehicle; the code number will be made more available to members so this won't be an excuse. If there is some reason why you just can't fill it, at least give Tim Henning a call at home and let him know so that he can have the truck ready for the next use. Two a.m. is not a good time to discover that one's tank is empty. (P.S.—You probably know not to squeeze in the last possible drop when filling the gas tank in summer. Our garage is nice but it's not air-conditioned, and liquid expands as it heats.)

**First Aid training.** Several members expressed an interest in a first aid class oriented specifically to our needs. Medical Director Jeff Waldeck will work on arranging this. Basic CPR will probably come first, then the more extensive class. Competence in first aid at the basic level is a requirement both for our members and for members of any MRA team. If you are the one on the scene when medical skills are needed, there is no substitute—so take advantage of these classes when Jeff gets them set up.

**It's Finally Gone.** Bob Meredith started it and Keith Whitaker finished taking down the old building on our property. We really appreciate all their time and hard work, which both makes the property look better and frees up some usable space. (Those of us who worked on taking down the first old building we removed still remember what hot, dirty work it was. Thanks, Bob and Keith, for doing this one!)

# INVITATION TO OTHER SAR TEAMS

JOIN US FOR CLIMBING AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

AT THE CITY OF ROCKS, JUNE 12-13

--BY TIM HENNING

Last year we tried it in May and were snowed out of the campground. This year we've organized a regional training for June 12-13, and promise you that there will be weather of some kind. Training will include a couple of rescue problems, at least one search problem, and a little time for "safe" personal climbing. If you are not familiar with the City of Rocks, you can learn more about it at <http://www.nps.gov/ciro/>

If you are in this region, your team has probably already received the information about this training and an invitation to join us. You should already have the schedule—Friday evening bonfire and war stories.

- Saturday: 0800-0900 Sign-in at Breadloaf group camping site
- 0900-1400 Vertical raise and lower rescue training
- 1400-1700 Free climbing time
- 1700-dark Search problem
- Sunday: 0800-1000 Scree evac and medical problem(s)
- 1000-1300 Additional problem(s) and practice?

If you want more information or want to join us and haven't already told us so, please contact Tim Henning IMMEDIATELY by e-mail (preferred) or phone.

[JDQL32A@micron.net](mailto:JDQL32A@micron.net) 208-375-3671

Tim needs to know (1) the approximate number of team members coming, (2) whether your team can supply a Rescue member who can act as a safety officer, (3) the number of campsites you will need, and (4) when you plan to arrive.

**\* also \***

## LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP!!!

**Mantracking class with Joel Hardin**

16-18 July 1999 in McCall, ID. Contact Rick Cudd for information and registration forms.

[recudd@micronpc.com](mailto:recudd@micronpc.com) (208) 938-0285

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**Dog Teams Re-evaluated.** Our current procedure is that active dog teams will be re-tested every two years. On May 23, the following additional teams were checked and approved: Jeff Munn and Mocha, Pam Green and Inca, George Gunn and Hobo. The dog handlers will be meeting on June 5 to schedule training for the coming months and discuss other business.



Things are looking up for the multi agency training at Idaho's City of Rocks.

## CALENDAR

June 8	SAR Training—prep for City of Rocks climbing weekend	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
June 12-13	SAR Field Training at City of Rocks (See more information in this issue.)	8:00 a.m. Sat. to early p.m. Sun.
June 15	Medical Training	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
June 18-20	MRA National Conference at Tucson	
June 22	Special Meeting to discuss “Rescue” testing, SAR Management class, membership levels, recertification plans	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
June 25-27	Water Workout Weekend for Search Dogs, Handlers, Divers, Boat Operators	Ririe Lake Recreation Area (Bonneville Co.)
June 29	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
July 6	General Meeting	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
July 13	SAR Training	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
July 16-18	Mantracking Class with Joel Hardin	McCall, Idaho
<p>NOTE: Since the Mantracking Class falls on our standard training weekend, there is a strong possibility of additional training—field navigation—on the following weekend. This will be announced when arrangements are complete.</p>		
July 20	Medical Training	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
July 27	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
July 31-Aug. 1	Water Training Weekend Sponsored by Idaho Search & Rescue Dogs, Inc.	Blackfoot Reservoir

**Aug. 20-28 Western Idaho Fair—Corn Booth**

## **HELP! HELP! HELP! YOUR CHANCE TO SERVE...**



Yeah, it's the Corn Booth again, at the Western Idaho Fair, August 20-28. Mr. Hefner is growing corn for us, supplies will be ordered, and we assume everyone has already encouraged their family and friends and co-workers to grab the great opportunity to do a volunteer shift or two at the booth (10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 5 p.m. to midnight each day). What we desperately need now is someone to handle the scheduling. This means listing your phone number for volunteers to call, calling groups that have helped us before, calling IMSARU members who don't call you, and arranging all the volunteers into lists of who will work when—then arranging to get Fair entry tickets (bought by IMSARU) to these people. There are several of us (Diane Mathews, Leslie Robertson, Jane Foreman, Charlotte Gunn) who will help you organize and offer free advice, but we need one person or a

team of two who will actually do it. This is an absolutely critical service to our unit. Please call President George Gunn at 466-8345 and volunteer to be the one.

**IDAHO MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT  
P.O. BOX 741  
BOISE, IDAHO 83701**

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