

WEB-EDITION

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RESCUE

**IDAHO MOUNTAIN SEARCH
AND RESCUE UNIT, INC
BOISE, IDAHO**

FOUNDING MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



OVERDUE HUNTER IN LOGGING GULCH AREA – OCTOBER 31, 2005

--CHRIS HARRY

It was another of those early-morning wake-up calls: A man had gone hunting the day before and was due home the same night but didn't show. We met at the Compound at 0700, received our briefing and were on our way. We had an unusually detailed description of the subject, his vehicle, and the area where he was supposed to be. Unfortunately, the route to this area is the road around Arrow Rock Dam, said road being in its ordinary unfriendly condition. Boise County Chief Deputy Braddock was also en route to the area to locate the subject's vehicle. As we were approaching Twin



This deer did not get away.

Springs, Braddock located the vehicle three miles beyond. Two hunting buddies had arrived about 30 minutes before Braddock and were already looking for the missing man. They “knew exactly where he would be,” and they were right.



Missing hunter is safe; time to turn around and drive home.

We were passing through Twin Springs when Braddock radioed that he had located the

subject on top of a ridge, with his buddies, and he was fine. IMSARU was cancelled. Kris Walker and 901 continued to the scene for photos and an interview. The subject stated that he had shot a buck on the other side of the ridge late in the day. Unfortunately, the dead animal rolled down to the bottom of a bowl. The hunter had to abandon his gear to carry the buck back up the hill and down the other side to his truck. Arriving at his truck well after dark, he realized that his keys were in his day pack which he had left behind in the field. Fearing that it would be cold overnight, he chose to break into his truck for shelter, using one of the windshield wipers to jimmy the door lock. At first light, he hiked back over the ridge to retrieve his gear.

While he was surprised to find us and Chief Deputy Braddock waiting for him at his truck, the subject seemed to appreciate our response. He appeared to be experienced (though unprepared to be out overnight, especially if the weather had turned foul) and was obviously familiar with this hunting area. His wife, when calling for help, had stated that the only previous time when he had not returned as planned had been due to an injury. Fortunately, this mission had a happy ending.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

As of November 30, our unit e-mail will switch to **yahoo** instead of **topica**. If you want to be included in the group and haven't already signed up for it, contact Dave Ritzenthaler at dave@ritzfam.com and he will explain what you need to do. The operation will be essentially the same—lists for special-interest groups, a general group, and access controlled to minimize spam.

STRANDED ON LEDGE ON THOMPSON PEAK OCTOBER 8, 2005 --DAN SCOVEL

A beautiful fall day started with Charlotte taking the State Comm page that requested our technical team's



When available, air transport is a luxury.

assistance in rescuing two stranded hikers from a ledge. Tim Henning then called each of the technical team members to confirm status and ask people to get their gear ready to go. Initial details were sketchy, which is normal, but our in-town coordinators were working on air transport. The mission location, Thompson Peak in the Sawtooth range outside of Stanley, was confirmed. A teenage boy and his

father had been stranded on the ledge since Friday afternoon, with not enough room for both to sit, while snow and icy rain made conditions ever more dangerous.

Final transportation arrangements had Bob, Tim, Jerry, Phil O., Brad and Aimee flying (with Jerry Terlisner of Ada County Aerial Sheriffs and Danny Cone of Malheur County); the other six team members drove up in 901, 902 and a personal vehicle, to carry more equipment and provide transportation home.

Upon our vehicles' arrival at Redfish Lake area and Base Camp, we found that our team members who had flown were still in Base and plans had changed. The weather was overcast with occa-



Some of the action was visible from Base Camp. Channel 2's, Dan Barth covered the story.

sional rain, snow and hail, with light winds at times; there was no snow on the valley floor but obvious snow on the mountain. Marc calculated the distance from Base to the victims' location at 4.5 miles as the crow flies, with an elevation gain of about 4500 feet. Reports from I.C. Greg Schwab (Ketchum Fire and Rescue) were that experienced personnel were on the mountain. Some had spent the night at the saddle below the victims and others had hiked in at first light. They could observe and sometimes talk with the subjects, but access was too dangerous at this time due to ice about ¼ inch thick that had formed on the rock surfaces and then been covered



with snow. The pair were responsive but everyone was concerned because they had now been there about 24 hours. Their clothing was described as tennis shoes, jeans and sweatshirt. With the cold, wet weather, hypothermia was certainly a major concern.

Brad and Aimee were among those who flew while the rest of the team proceeded by road.

The I.C. had located a rescue helicopter and crew from Grand Teton National Park, and they were en route to attempt a long-line rescue. It was great to watch as the helicopter dropped two rescuers on the mountain, then returned to pick up a rescue person with each victim. Within a very short time of being picked up from the ledge, the pair started warming up in tents at the saddle, where rescue members waited. The helicopter then moved them again to the Stanley airport, where Life Flight transported them to the hospital. They were reported to be in good condition for what they had just been through.

Teams from Salt Lake County and Utah County were on their way during the day as well, and found out shortly before arriving at the scene that the mission was complete and successful. Although teams (including ours) had traveled and stood by all day at the ready, all teams maintained a professional attitude and waited for all personnel to return from the field and for the Utah teams to arrive before closing down Base Camp. This was a great group of professional volunteers.!

Special thanks to: (1) Grand Teton National Park Rangers for their professional skills and debrief for the other teams, including the description of putting the screamer suit on the victims. (You can guess why they call it a screamer suit.) (2) Ketchum Fire and Rescue for managing the mission, including excellent food at Base Camp and a spotting scope to watch the action. (3) Salt Lake County and Utah County MRA teams for maintaining a positive attitude after driving 6.5 hours to get there just after the end.

There were at least a dozen agencies involved in this mission. Besides those mentioned in the article, there were Blaine County Sheriff, Blaine County SAR, Custer County Sheriff, Galena Ski Patrol, and probably others I have missed.

IMSARU members included Brad Acker, Marc Buursink, Aimee Hastriter, Tim Henning, Bob Meredith, Ron Moomey, Jerry Newland, Phil O'Bryan, Dave Ritzenthaler, Phil Sanders, Dan Scovel, and Eric Zuber. Rod Knopp, George Gunn and Charlotte Gunn worked on in-town coordination.

OCTOBER 2005 WAS A BUSY MONTH --CHARLOTTE GUNN

October 1 – Overdue grouse hunter in Anderson Creek area. Cancelled before we left.

October 8 – Father and teenage son stranded overnight on ledge on Thompson Peak, near Stanley. See article on page 3. Responded: Brad Acker, Marc Buursink, Aimee Hastriter, Tim Henning, Bob Meredith, Ron Moomey, Jerry Newland, Phil O'Bryan, Dave Ritzenthaler, Phil Sander, Dan Scovel, Eric Zuber. 138 person-hours. 840 vehicle miles.

October 8 – Woodcutters missing in Harris Creek area. They live in Horseshoe Bend; supposed to deliver wood to Lowman on October 7 but never showed. Cancelled while en route. Responded: Ann Finley, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, George Gunn, Chris Harry, Linda Kearney with Smokey, Doug Knapp, Ross MacIntosh, Kris Scovel. 8 person-hours. 183 vehicle miles.

October 10 – Call from wife whose husband might be overdue. Resolved without field response.

October 19 – Young couple (wife had open-heart surgery in May) with children (ages 6 and 2-1/2) went hunting in Bear Valley area on previous Thursday. Supposed to return Sunday or Monday but did not. Chief Deputy found their camper but vehicle was not with it. Cancelled before team left the Compound. Responded: Ann Finley, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, George Gunn, Chris Harry, Tim Henning with ATV, Linda Kearney with Smokey, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Doug Knapp, Bill Lindenau with ATV, Ross MacIntosh, Ron Moomey, Dave Ritzenthaler, Dan Scovel, Kris Walker, Marc Westerdoll, Eric Zuber.

October 26 – Elderly (in early 80's) hunter missing in Dry Buck area. Cancelled before team left the Compound. Responded: Ann Finley, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, George Gunn, Tim Henning, Linda Kearney with Smokey, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell.

October 29 – 19-year-old hunter called parents at 2215 hours on the 28th, stating unable to find hunting camp and "I may be lost." See article on page 9.

October 29 – While hunting for the young man above, received radio message from S.O. that we needed to also find a female hunter who had left message on family answering machine between 1500 and 1800 hours on the 28th, stating she was returning to Idaho City, but did not show up. Cancelled before we caught up with her.

Responded to these 2 missions: Casey Calico, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, George Gunn, Chris Harry, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Ron Moomey, Kris Walker, Eric Zuber. 72 person-hours. 634 vehicle miles.

October 31 – Hunter did not return home from Logger Gulch area when expected. See article on page 1. Responded: Ann Finley, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, George Gunn, Chris Harry, Linda Kearney with Smokey, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Doug Knapp, Kris Walker, Eric Zuber. 42.5 person-hours. 476 vehicle miles.

YOU CAN'T BE THE FIRST...BUT YOU COULD STILL BE AHEAD OF THE PACK

Bill Lindenau paid his 2006 dues and pager fee in October; Kevin and Madeleine Schroeder were right behind him with their dues. So far in November, Linda Kearney, Tom Kearney and Ann Finley have paid their 2006 dues. That leaves only about 45 more of you. Continuing members pay \$30 and new members pay \$50 the first year to cover cost of orange shirt, training notebook, first set of patches.

And if you are carrying a digital pager with a discrete number, that costs \$36 a year. The ones that receive only group pages have no annual fee. And yes, it doesn't seem fair that we have to "pay to play" as well as supplying our own equipment and finding time for training, missions and other unit activities...but if you attended the budget meeting, you do understand.



Being a "body" for search dogs is always an adventure.

CALENDAR

Dec. 6	General Meeting – Debrief the Thompson Peak Mission with the subjects	7:30 p.m. at the Compound
Dec. 9-10-11	Gift Wrapping Project at R.E.I.	
Dec. 10	IMSARU Christmas Party See article in this issue for details.	6 p.m.
Dec. 13	Basic new member field training	7:00 p.m. At the Compound
Dec. 16-24	Gift Wrapping Project at R.E.I.	
Dec. 20	Medical Training	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Dec. 27	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Jan. 3	General Meeting	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Jan. 10	Wilderness First Aid - Part 1	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Jan. 14	Wilderness First Aid - Part 2	Time & Place TBA
Jan. 17	Wilderness First Aid - Part 3	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Jan. 24	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Jan. 31	NO MEETING SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME	
Feb. 7	General Meeting	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Feb. 14	SAR Training	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Feb. 18-19	SAR Field Training	Time & Place TBA

2005 CHRISTMAS PARTY

6 P.M. ON DECEMBER 10

You should already have this on your calendar, and you certainly don't want to miss it. Plan to socialize, applaud, reminisce, eat a lot and laugh more. Jennifer and Jerry Newland are again our connection for the place; Linda and Tom Kearney are coordinating with them on physical set-up and decoration.

Location is the same as the past few years, though some remodeling is supposed to be giving us more space. Go to the community center of Western Village mobile home park at 9390 Ustick Road, a bit west of Maple Grove. Entrance is between pillars on the north side of the street, between the stoplight at Maple Grove and the one at Mitchell—across from Kimble Street and just west of Patricia Street. Once you turn into Western Village, the community center is on the right at the first corner.

We start with a pot-luck supper, so bring a large dish of food to share and a serving utensil for that dish. Place settings, coffee, tea and pop will be provided. Do bring your spouse or special friend to share this evening. Rod will present the serious awards to members who have gone way beyond the basic participation; Diane and Charlotte will remind you of some of the less-serious moments. All of us will help to clean up at the end.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

As always, our continuing work is made possible by support from many sources. We thank all the members who volunteer their time, skill and personal equipment to help those in need whenever the call comes, and to do the unglamorous background work that keeps the organization functioning. We also thank the families, friends and co-workers who step in to carry the load while our field crews go racing off to some place they've never been before, often in the middle of the night, to help people they've never met and will probably never see again.

This month we offer special thanks to:

Jim Noland, who donated a VCR.

Phil Sander, who donated an inverter.

Ed and Lilliane Kemp, for a cash donation.

Team Tamarack Resort Adventure Racing, who held a raffle for outdoor equipment and donated all the proceeds to IMSARU. *Brad Acker*, we especially thank you for your role in this.

The Boise R.E.I. store, for again offering us the chance to wrap gifts during the holiday season and keep all the donations to support our unit.

Note: Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, Inc. is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Donations to our group are considered charitable gifts by the I.R.S.

THE PERFECT SEARCH – OCTOBER 29, 2005
--TOM KEARNEY

We are paged on Saturday morning. There is a lost hunter north of Idaho City, in the Henry Creek area. Arriving at the Compound at 8:30, we learn that a 19-year-old hunter called his parents the night before to tell them that he got lost on the way to the hunting camp on F.S. Road 390. None of our maps show such a road—380 and 399, yes, but alas no 390. Undaunted by this minor detail, we load up and head out of town. Ron Moomey and Casey Calico are in the lead vehicle. Carl Kidwell and I are riding in “Tonka.” Charlotte, George and Eric are in the motor home, Chris is driving 902 and Kris will catch up with us. We agree to meet on the Centerville Road at the beginning of 399. Ron heads down 399 while we go toward 380. We stop where 380 begins and call George (the O.L.) to find out if we should proceed on this road. After a few “Please stand by,” he tells us there in **another** missing hunter, most likely on or near 380.

It is agreed that we will go down 380, looking for both subjects and the hunting camp. After a short drive, we notice a couple of trailers and several pickups at a campsite. Carl spots a truck that matches the description of someone who is supposed to be at the first hunter’s camp. Then he notices a white Jeep Cherokee parked under the trees. Could that be what we are looking for? (Nah, it’s never that easy.) We pull into the camp and verify that it is the subject’s Jeep. The lone occupant of the camp greets us; although he hasn’t seen the subject that morning, he is confident that he is out hunting with the others. A short time later, the hunters return to the camp; our subject is with them. Needless to say, he is very embarrassed to have caused so much trouble.

We ask these hunters if they have seen the second missing person’s truck. To our amazement, one of them not only describes the truck and driver, but is also able to pinpoint the time and direction of travel. Armed with this new information, Carl and I bid farewell to the hunters and head toward Pilot Peak. We check out the spurs and side roads as we come across them. As we approach the peak, we receive a call from George that the second subject has been located. We continue over the peak, the other vehicles go back down via New Centerville, and we meet for lunch in Idaho City before heading back to Boise.

Not every search works this way. No one had to do any hiking, the weather was very cooperative, and the first search supplied us with the PLS and direction of travel for the second subject. IMSARU participants were: Rod Knopp (in-town coordinator), George Gunn (I.C.), Casey Calico, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, Chris Harry, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Kris Walker and Eric Zuber.

GIFT-WRAPPING PROJECT AT R.E.I.
--CHARLOTTE GUNN

Get those fingers limbered up and practice a bit with scissors and tape—it’s time for the annual gift-wrapping at R.E.I. No, you don’t have to be artistic. We do rustic wrapping of outdoor gifts, and anyone—members, neighbors, relatives, teenage kids, friends—can help. Our location in the store is different this year, but the process is much the same: paper, tape, pre-made bows and good will turn purchases into presents, and we get to keep all the donations. And if your shift is slow, you can even wander around the store and look at all the things you’d like Santa to bring.

Kevin and Madeleine Schroeder are coordinating the event this year. We’ll be working December 9-10-11 and then again December 16 through 24. Please say yes to at least a couple of shifts when Kevin and Madeleine call you. Better yet, you call them at 323-1339 and volunteer!

A Joint Training



Curious drivers on Highway 21 slowed as they passed Mountain Rescue's joint "over the side" training with Wilderness Ranch Fire Department and Moors Creek Ambulance service. We are looking forward to the next installment of this training relationship.

