

WEB EDITION

Vol. 39 Jan./Feb. 2006 No.1

RESCUE

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

Search to Rocky Ridge Yurt	-p. 1
2005 Service Awards	-p. 4
Medical Training Updated	-p. 6
Calendar	-p. 7
Training Schedule Update	-p. 11

FOUNDING MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



SEARCH AT WHOOP-UM-UP – FEBRUARY 2, 2006

--MARK WESTERDOLL

The pagers went off at 11:30 p.m. on February 1, requesting back-country ski and snowshoe teams to search for two female adults and a four-year-old child. We responded to the Compound and readied our gear for a long night. The report from Boise County stated that the group had snowshoed in on Sunday, January 29, and was staying at the Rocky Ridge yurt, about 1.7 miles in from the Whoop-Um-Up park and ski area. The adults were experienced; at least one of them had stayed in this yurt many times and was very familiar with the area. They were supposed to return home on Wednesday but no one had heard from them and a friend called to report them overdue. A Boise County deputy located their car in the parking lot, covered with about a foot and a half of snow. Total snowpack in the area was up to ten feet deep. As it turned out, there were almost three feet of new snow in the area of the yurt.



The group arrives back at the road.

—Photo by K. Walker

RESCUE is published bi-monthly by the IDAHO MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT, INC.
2519 Federal Way, Boise ID 83705. Editor: Charlotte Gunn, Phone (208) 378-7787 or e-mail
cpgunn@cableone.net Visit our web site at www.imsaru.org

Best guess was that the adults had decided to stay an additional night in the yurt because of the



This snow load convinced law enforcement that the subjects were still in the field.

—Photo by D. Scovel

weather conditions. However, there were too many other possibilities—ranging from personal injury to avalanche while out on day trips to their becoming disoriented during whiteout conditions and unable to find their way back to shelter—for us to ignore the call, especially with a young child involved.

Jerry and George decided to send a recon team straight to the yurt to check whether the subjects were indeed holed up there. Eric and I geared up with mountaineering skis and avalanche gear and, with poor maps, navigated our way to the yurt. We made a few wrong turns because neither of us had been there before (and navigating at night while additional snow continues to fall is not simple) but were able to break trail until we found the correct trail to the yurt. The snow was very deep, travel where the trail had not been packed was challenging, and the tree wells, creek crossings, etc. were quite dangerous. Our search area, however, had no avalanche danger. Team 2 (Dan and Doug) and Team 3 (Chris, Marc B. and Carl) went out on



Carl and Chris dig down to the trail marker.

—Photo by M. Buursink

showshoes and started searching the numerous trails around the area. Jerry, George and Charlotte remained at Base for coordination and communications; Kris W. joined them later.



The popup shelters equipment from the continuing snow while team equipment was being passed out.

—Photo by K. Walker

As we approached the yurt, it was about 5:30 a.m. and still dark, lightly snowing. It was obvious from all the recent tracks that someone was staying at the yurt. We started calling to alert the occupants of our arrival and were greeted by “Oh S#%&!” and a loud squeal. They gave us permission and we entered a very warm and comfortable condo with all the creature

comforts. The occupants were our missing persons and they were fine; their only problem was that they were out of coffee because the friend who was supposed to join them and bring more coffee had not been able to make her way in. As expected, the subjects had decided because of the recent snow to stay put and not risk the 3-1/2-hour hike out with the child. They were afraid the road would be closed and felt it would be better to stay in the warm yurt than in a cold vehicle. It was a wise decision. They had tried to find a way to communicate their decision so people wouldn't worry, but were unable to do so.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that we would wait while they packed and help them to the parking area. We escorted them out. Initially they pulled their own sleds, FULLY loaded, with the child walking between us. After about 100 feet, we traded and pulled the sled while the mother helped her daughter. The hike out was very strenuous! The trail in the snow was narrower than the sleds we were pulling, and they kept dragging in the trough, so we moved out of the trail and broke our own. About halfway to the parking lot, the child started having trouble and needed to ride on the sled I was pulling. We met up with Team 2 that had scouted a shortcut to the road, where Jerry and Kris picked us all up in vehicles. I was tired!

At the parking lot, the subjects were delighted to find that Jerry and Kris had shoveled the snow off their vehicle, leaving only a topping to show them how deep it had been. We debriefed and then started home, with half of us stopping for a filling hot breakfast in Idaho City.

Members included: Coordinator Rod Knopp, who got the mission rolling before returning to bed and trying to get well. Kris Scovel, who spent most of the night at the Compound as in-town coordinator. Marc Buursink, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Chris Harry, Carl Kidwell, Doug Knapp, Jerry Newland (O.L.), Dan Scovel, Kris Walker, Mark Westerdoll, Eric Zuber.

Editor's Points to Ponder:

- Lots of fresh snow makes travel difficult. Even though well prepared with clothing and equipment, and in good physical shape, our teams struggled to cover the terrain. Any place where the trail had not been recently packed meant sinking to their knees despite the snowshoes. Had the subjects not been at the yurt and a wide-area search been necessary....
- Trails that are well marked under ordinary conditions are not so in the dark and with this year's extraordinary snow. Our teams occasionally dug down to markers, to find confirmation of where they thought they were.
- The subjects were embarrassed that we came looking for them, and threatened retribution to the friend who reported them overdue. We hope they gave her a big hug instead. The subjects had done all the right things, including staying over at the yurt instead of fighting the fresh snow; the friend did the right thing in calling the Sheriff's Office when they did not return as scheduled; we like searches with happy endings such as this one.
- If you haven't skied with Eric, you might ask him why the subjects described him as "a maniac on skis."

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, Inc. is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) corporation. We never charge anyone for our services, and we depend upon donations and fundraising activities to pay for our training, unit equipment and expenses. We greatly appreciate the groups and individuals who have contributed recently:

Boise River Eagles Good Sam Club

Thyne Murdoch

Diane Fields

Paula and Phil O'Bryan

Idaho Power VIP Award in recognition of Eric Zuber's community service.

Individuals who donated to us through United Way

Individuals who donated to us through Global Impact, and H-P for matching their donations.

Karl Shrum of Fastenal in Ontario for 200 bolts

Adam Chitwood for 200 tee nuts.

(The bolts and nuts will be used to fasten handholds and footholds on the climbing wall currently under construction in our garage.)

Danny Cone for rebuilding the front end of truck 902 and making it safe to drive again.

R.E.I. Boise store for again setting us up to wrap Christmas gifts for donations

CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 10, 2005

--CHARLOTTE GUNN

The remodeled community center at Western Village was an even better place for the party, and we thank Judy and Woody Hart for sponsoring us again. Jerry and Jennifer Newland and Tom and Linda Kearney acquired the supplies and made all the physical arrangements. We stuffed ourselves with potluck dinner, laughed and reminisced about adventures recent and past. Jerry

and Jennifer were excused from producing the traditional media show because all their belongings are in storage while they are between houses, but Diane and Charlotte again found “awards” for some of the less serious (and/or more embarrassing) events of the year. We finished off the evening with presentation of serious awards:

Rod Knopp received a monogrammed orange fleece jacket in thanks for his countless hours as Coordinator of the unit, in-town coordinator of most of the missions, resource person who stayed up through the night figuring out whether we really had a mission, and fount of wisdom and experience. Rod then presented the remaining awards.

Keychains engraved with MRA logo and personal names went to:

Marc Buursink for another year of being responsible for the Compound, his work with the technical team, and his willingness to share knowledge gained by personal experience and by his study of geology.

Ed Emmel for keeping our radios and pagers going, including hours of work on vehicle communications equipment.

Linda Kearney for mission participation, K9 training (including passing all the tests with Smokey), volunteering to take over lawn care while Marc was in Houston, pitching in on just about every project that needed to be done.

Tom Kearney for mission participation, K9 training, work on the unit vehicles, helping with multiple projects throughout the year.

Jeff Munn for organizing and supervising the Corn Booth set-up and take-down, and for his experienced help with re-certification testing.

Jennifer Newland for many hours of behind-the-scenes work on the Trout Pond, scheduling workers for the Corn Booth, working on Christmas projects, and especially for bravely volunteering as a live subject during technical training.

Phil O’Bryan for his many hours of work on the budget and financial records and for all his help with re-certification.

Everett Wood for mission participation and for all his shifts at the Corn Booth.

Lucite clocks with the MRA logo went to:

George Gunn for mission participation, in-town coordination, training, multi-agency coordination, and numerous special projects throughout the year.

Chris Harry for mission participation, work on the vehicles, and immediate response to equipment problems.

Bill Lindenau for giving a major chunk of his summer to our re-certification testing—multiple trips to the camp, equipment, and doing whatever was needed during the testing.

Ron Moomey for mission participation, work with potential and new members, acquiring certification to teach Wilderness First Aid, and multiple projects during the year.

Jerry Newland for extraordinary success in keeping the unit running smoothly while he was also dealing with the “handicaps” of out-of-state training and being between houses, for work with the technical team and on our re-certification project.

Dan Scovel for mission participation, continuing mantracking training, work with safety education, and work on re-certification testing.

Kris Scovel for mission participation, continuing mantracking training, and pitching in whenever something needed to be done.

Kris Walker for mission participation, lending his expertise in training, his work with the technical team and major contributions to re-certification.

Charlotte Gunn received a combination Swiss Army knife and computer thumb drive in recognition of her work on the newsletter, mission participation, K9 training, assistance with unit finances and communications, and involvement in multiple projects.

The **Technical Team** received an engraved wooden plaque in honor of their success in re-certification testing, and in thanks for the many hours they spent training for the events.

Bob Meredith received the Distinguished Service “Rock Award” for his outstanding work in setting up technical training, arranging the facilities for the summer testing, and organizing the testing itself.

JANUARY 2006 MEDICAL TRAINING --CHARLOTTE GUNN

January’s training focused on medical skills, in a major effort to get all of our members current on at least their basic requirements. Ron Moomey taught another Wilderness First Aid class, and thirteen people, including many of our newer members, spent two Tuesday evenings and a full day on Saturday taking notes on the presentations and practicing the hands-on scenarios. The following members attained their Red Cross certification, which is good for three years: Jace Brunson, Casey Calico, Danny Cone, David Gomez, Chris Harry, Carl Kidwell, Bob Meredith, Chuck Nery, Jeff Pile, David Thigpen, Lori Thompson, Rick Thompson, and Chris Westmoreland.

The following Tuesday, January 24, Jerry Newland taught a CPR class, and eighteen of us did the whole thing—video, lecture, demo, practice on the mannequins, and exam—where Doug Knapp and Bill Lindenau used their recent EMT experience to help with technique and critique. The following members received their American Heart Association certification, good for two years: Tony Barrett, Jace Brunson, Casey Calico, Danny Cone, David Gomez, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Chris Harry, Carl Kidwell, Jeff Munn, Chuck Nery, Dan Scovel, Kris Scovel, Lori Thompson, Rick Thompson, Chris Westmoreland.

Almost as pleasing as the enthusiastic turnout for these classes was the number of other members whose certification has not expired but who used the opportunity to review part or all of the instruction just because they want to be ready. We are very fortunate to have Ron and Jerry who have used their own time and initiative to become certified instructors, and we thank them for their help. We also appreciate our other members with advanced medical training who assisted. All of us hope our skills won’t be needed; all of us know it could happen at any time.

CONGRATULATIONS, RAVALLI COUNTY [MONTANA] SEARCH AND RESCUE!

Ravalli County SAR completed all their tests in March and July. At the January business meeting of the Mountain Rescue Association, they were formally accepted as a member of the MRA and the Inter-mountain Region.

CALENDAR

NOTE: If location is not listed, it is at the Compound, at 2519 Federal Way.

Feb. 7	Over-snow Travel – Eric Zuber	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	SAR K9 Training – Call Tom Kearney at 321-1175	
Feb. 14	Snow Shelters – Brad Acker	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18-19	Field Training – Over-snow Travel & Snow Shelters	Time & Place TBA
Feb. 21	Avalanche Safety – Winston Cheyney	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 23 (THURSDAY)	Avalanche Safety – Winston Cheyney	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Use of Avalanche Transceivers, followed by K9 Training At Bogus Basin Ski Area	Time TBA
Feb. 26	Field Training – Avalanche Safety – Winston Cheyney Tentatively at Tamarack Ski Area	Time TBA
Feb. 28	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 7	SAR Training – NIMS Compliance/USAR/ICS	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 11	SAR K-9 Training – Call Charlotte Gunn at 378-7787	
Mar. 14	SAR K-9 Handlers' Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Mar. 14	SAR Training – NIMS Compliance/USAR/ICS	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 18	SAR Field Training – Mock Mission	Time & Place TBA
Mar. 21	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 26	SAR K-9 Training – Call Martha Vandivort at 338-0284	
Mar. 28	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.

Plan ahead for:

- April Training will concentrate on SAR skills.
- The Race to Robie Creek is on April 15. We need 20-25 members to help with communications and first aid.
- May Training will concentrate on Air Operations.
- **The Washington State SAR Conference is May 19-22.**

DUES AND PAGER FEES ARE DUE

Last call for paying 2006 dues and pager fees! First-year dues for new members are \$50, which includes costs of orange shirt, first sleeve patch, and some training materials. Dues for continuing members are \$30. There is no charge for the pagers which have only the group page, but if you carry one with a discrete number (so that you can be paged individually by anyone who knows your number) it costs \$36 for the year. Pay your dues and pager fees to Charlotte, and get a receipt. Listed below are those who had paid by February 4. If you think you paid and your name is not on the list, talk to Charlotte. If you haven't paid by the first Tuesday in April, you will no longer be an active member.

2006 Dues Paid (includes 8 Life Members, who do not pay dues)

Barrett, Tony	Kearney, Linda	Schroeder, Kevin
Brunson, Mick	Kearney, Tom	Schroeder, Madeleine
Calico, Casey	Kidwell, Carl	Shell, Derek
Cone, Danny	Kline, Bob	Strasser, Ted
Engleman, Tony	Knapp, Doug	Thigpen, David
Finley, Ann	Knopp, Rod	Thompson, Lori
Fisher, Brian	Lindenau, Bill	Thompson, Rick
Gomez, David	Meredith, Bob	Vandivort, Martha
Gunn, Charlotte	Merrell, Dominick	Westerdoll, Mark
Gunn, George	Moomey, Ton	Wood, Everett
Harry, Chris	Munn, Jeff	
Hutchinson, Don	Rae, Vernon	

2006 Pager Fees Paid

Gunn, Charlotte	Lindenau, Bill
Gunn, George	Vandivort, Martha

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 2005

It seemed like 2005's mission load was lighter than usual, and that's apparently accurate. Our Coordinator, Rod Knopp, compiles the basic information from each mission call and submits the information to the Mountain Rescue Association each year. His figures for the calendar year show that we received 24 calls for assistance; 11 of these were cancelled prior to our leaving town and we did respond to 13 of the calls. These missions used 7.3 fixed-wing hours, 3 ATV hours, 8 motorcycle hours and 28 SAR dog hours. Our members drove 9083 vehicle miles and spent 1088 person-hours on the missions.

BASIC TECH CLASS

--BOB MEREDITH, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Thanks to the following people for the tech basic class held this month: Dan Scovel for heading up the whole operation, and the instructors Phil O'Bryan, Phil Sander, Marc Buursink and Martha Vandivort. This is a ten-hour class on basic rope work. Out of ten students, seven completed the class on Monday night, January 30. Those who completed are: Casey Calico, Doug Knapp, Carl Kidwell, Danny Cone, Chris Harry, Lee Pierce and Cliff Gann. Three more people are scheduled to complete the class on Saturday, February 4.

XENA CHRONICLES #? **--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

You've seen Xena's name as participating in searches, but not heard of her escapades recently because she's now a mature dog and behaves herself—right? Well, mostly. However....

When we stripped our kitchen for remodeling, things that used to live in closed cabinets moved temporarily to open shelving in our back room. Of course, we put stuff that would be attractive to a canine on higher shelves and used the lower ones for canned goods, paper goods, etc. However, early one morning I found in the back yard the remains of a prune container. Yes, she had taken the container outside via the dog door, opened it and eaten the entire pound and a half of its contents. A quick call to the vet established that (1) prunes are not toxic to dogs, but (2) they do have the same effect on canines' digestive tracts as on humans.

I have tried explaining the concept of actions and consequences to Xena; she wagged her tail and dropped her Kong at my feet. But then, she wasn't the one who had to clean up the yard.

R.E.I. GIFTWRAP PROJECT – DECEMBER 2005 **--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

The Boise R.E.I. store again provided the opportunity for us to wrap Christmas gifts for donations, a welcome fundraiser. Of course it's a busy time for everyone, but dozens of our members and friends stepped up to cover shifts during store hours, December 9-24. We started weeks ahead of time to produce our handmade bows, with many of us making the basic bows and a few artistic people like Rose Wood creating the elegant ones. Kevin Schroeder agreed to coordinate the project, which meant making arrangements with Sylvia at R.E.I., scheduling workers, buying supplies, making sure our work area was set up in the morning and put away at night, and keeping track of everything.

Thank you, Kevin! (Now that you know how to run this project, we're sure you will volunteer to do it again next year so all that learning isn't wasted.) And thank you, R.E.I., for this contribution to our on-going mission. We also thank all those who worked on preparations and/or wrapping, and the K9 handlers who brought their warm furry attractions in to greet the shoppers.



—Photo by G. Gunn

GENE AND SANDY RALSTON FINALLY RECEIVE THEIR AWARD

The Higgins and Langley Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Swiftwater Rescue was actually announced at the NASAR conference in June 2004. However, the Ralstons were unable to attend the ceremony because they were off on a mission. And every time we tried to set up a local ceremony for presentation, they were off again to California or Virginia or Texas. Gene and Sandy travel all over the U.S. and into Canada, using their side-scan sonar to help families retrieve the remains of their loved ones. In addition to victims of accidental drowning, the Ralstons have searched for crime victims and evidence, missing planes, and such high-profile cases as pieces of the shuttle Columbia and the military jets that collided in the Columbia Gorge.

Ada County Sheriff Gary Raney presented the actual award on December 4, 2005.

Congratulations, Gene and Sandy, and thank you for your work!



—Photo by T. Barrett

PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH THE DOGS

IMSARU's dog handlers are always looking for "fresh scent" for their dogs. Both the tracking-trailing dogs and the air-scent dogs need to find strangers, as that's what they'll be doing on a real mission. And all of our dog teams, both novice and operational veterans, continue to train throughout their active lives. If you are curious about how the dogs work, if you just want an excuse to go up in the hills or out in the desert in all kinds of weather, if you want to do a short service project for IMSARU, get in touch with one of the people listed below. The dates given are for "official" full-group training; there are also lots of informal small-group training sessions on both weekdays and weekends. Note that our dogs are all friendly to people; they do not do bite work but they may lick your face.

February 12 – Tom Kearney 321-1175
February 25 – Stay after IMSARU's snow training
March 11 – Charlotte Gunn 378-7787
March 26 – Martha Vandivort 338-0284

April 9 – Linda Kearney 321-1175
April 23 – Ann Finley 336-1485
May 7 – Tom Kearney 321-1175

'06 Training Calendar Update Insert

George Gunn, Training Director

IMSARU is striving to include some new areas of training as well as provide a sound basis for our historic mission profile. What follows is a summary of the direction training will be taking for the first half of the year.

January - Basic Preparedness

We began with dressing for the winter mission. A basic technical rescue class, just completed, has added 9 new members to our "tech team." Wilderness First Aid and CPR classes rounded out January. In addition to those who audited the class to refresh their skills, 13 people took (and passed) the first aid module and 18 the CPR.

February – Winter Safety

We will be taking advantage of the above-average snowfall to pack in some extra sessions this month.

- Feb. 7 -- Over-snow Travel – Classroom session
- Feb. 14 --Snow Shelters - Classroom session
- Feb. 18-19 -- Field practice of the above skills
- Feb. 21 **and 23** -- Avalanche Safety – Classroom session
- Feb 25 --Field practice for the use of avalanche transceivers at Bogus Basin
- Feb 26 --Field training in Avalanche Safety (tentatively at Tamarack)

March – USAR

We train for wilderness response where the usual 911 help is delayed or not available. What about in town when the usual systems are swamped or not available, for example due to natural or manmade disaster? IMSARU members are in a unique position to respond here too. In March we will learn how to assist our families and neighbors as well as emergency agencies in the urban setting. Believe me, SAR in an urban setting is very different. This time when we talk about USAR we **are** talking about when things fall down. This course has lots of hands-on scenarios and delayed-help / triage training.

We will have a 16-hour CERT class taught at the IMSARU compound on March 14 and 21 (Tuesdays evenings) and 25- 26

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

There are more details about the program at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>

April – NIMS awareness / SAR Skills

As we continue to expand the list of agencies we work with, we need to know about currents in the larger ocean of first-responding agencies. Most of you are now becoming comfortable with ICS terminology. The new kid on the block is NIMS. We have arranged for a 3-hour class on NIMS for the general meeting **April 4th**. We will be starting at **7:00 P.M.**

Course # IEM-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) - An Introduction (Awareness Level)

This course introduces NIMS, and explains the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS. The course also contains Planning Activity components, giving an opportunity to complete some planning tasks during this course. This class is the basic pre-requisite for other NIMS training components. More information is at: <http://www.isu.edu/idiem/iem-700.shtml>.

N.B. Medical training will be moved up to **April 11** because the race to Robie Creek is Saturday the 15th.

April 18 training is on field searching skills and tactics. Mock mission on Saturday, April 22.

May – Air Ops.

IMSARU continues to make more use of both rotary and fixed-wing aircraft. Everyone needs to know how to stay safe and work effectively around and in aircraft. We also need to be aware of the issues of responding to downed aircraft. Specifics of the schedule are still being developed. Check the next issue of RESCUE.

June – Navigation

This is a perishable skill! All members need to be involved in this refresher training. It would be VERY embarrassing to have someone from Mountain Rescue get lost. Please plan to make both the June 13th classroom and the field portion June 17-18.

Communications

Dave Ritzenthaler is working to set up another Ham radio operators class. This is a very flexible addition to our ability to provide communications on a mission. The cost of new commercial equipment mandated by the FCC may push IMSARU to rely on Ham radio for our main communications in a few years. Get a head start and get your amateur radio license now. Contact Dave at 850-2989 or jaunemaillot@gmail.com for more information.

7 Feb. '06