

WEB EDITION

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RESCUE

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

FOUNDING MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



SEARCH FOR DROWNING VICTIM—ARROWROCK RESERVOIR

APRIL 1, 2006

--CHARLOTTE GUNN



Dave and Bailey, Karen and Bear

A young man (age 21 or 22, according to media) went fishing on March 20. His family called the Boise County S.O. the next morning, to report he had not returned and that he had planned to go to Arrowrock Reservoir. A deputy located the subject's vehicle near the low-water ramp, and then his overturned boat was spotted near the dam. Other debris (life jacket, pair of gloves, etc.) was also floating in the same area. The water still had a wide rim of slushy ice in many areas. The missing man reportedly often fished alone, and never wore his life jacket.

Gene and Sandy Ralston took their boat, side-scan sonar and ROV (remote-operated vehicle) up to the reservoir and searched for a few days as weather allowed. The section of the reservoir near the dam has very steep sides and many underwater boulders, making it difficult to get good images with the sonar or to maneuver the ROV. There were some "suspicious" shadows, but none of them panned out. Gene and Sandy, called out of town for a family matter, asked if search dogs could check some areas to narrow the search. Weather forecasts indicated that waiting a week might improve our chances.

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Angie searches from Rod's Boston Whaler.

-Photo by G. Gunn

IMSARU has two dogs that have had water training, but neither is officially certified for it nor did our handlers feel the dogs had enough experience in deep cold water to be responsible for this search. So we called our friends in Bonneville County SAR. Dave Forker with Bailey and Karen Hiatt with Bear made the long drive on March 31. Their visit did not start out well, as Dave's boat and motor were stolen from the parking lot of Inn America that night! We also had an impressive very-early-morning wind-and-rain storm that made the idea of water search seem silly.



Spring Break on the beach.....IMSARU style

-Photo by K. Walker

Nonetheless, on Saturday morning Mick Brunson took the Boise County Marine Patrol boat up to the reservoir and Rod Knopp (also Marine Patrol) took his personal Boston Whaler. Dave, Karen and 11 additional IMSARU members went to set up a base camp and support the search. It was one of those spring days when the weather did everything—rain, hail, sun, clouds, a couple of wind gusts that had us grabbing the shelters and holding tight—but there was quite a bit of decent searching time. Air temperature was around 40° with surface water at 43° and much colder at depth. Water level over the past two weeks had fallen and then risen again. (Arrowrock is the upper of two dams just above Boise, and this is the time of year when the experts are trying to fill the reservoirs



All members, coordinate your GPS receivers!

-Photo by G. Gunn

for summer while making room for run-off.)

Dave with Bailey, Everett and Tony drove back a ways to run a shore search below the dam, and Karen H. with Bear and Linda went on the water in Rod's boat. Both teams reported their results to George (O.L.) but did not share with each other. After lunch, the teams switched places: Karen H. with Bear, Tony and Chris went below the dam while Rod took Dave with

Bailey and Tony to do the water search. After the shore search team returned to base, Mick ferried Karen H. with Bear and Karen L. out to do another on-water sweep and brought Dave's team back to base. Once Dave and Karen H. felt they had covered the search areas thoroughly, Rod and Mick ferried IMSARU's in-training K9 water teams (Martha with Angie and Charlotte with Xena) out to the area for a training run, using the previous hits as indicators of where scent should be.

Results: Both dogs found interesting scent in the water below the dam—biting at the water and wading into it. All four dogs had multiple hits in a limited area above the dam and close to where the overturned boat was found. Bailey's hits were closer to the dam than those of the other three dogs; the wind had shifted to blow toward the dam when he was working. Water depth in the area ranged from about 60 feet to over 120 feet. We don't know for sure until the body is found (and maybe never, as this reservoir doesn't always give up its dead) but feel pretty confident. As this goes to press, Gene and Sandy are back in town and are working with the GPS locations of our K9 hits to plan their next step.

IMSARU members participating included Tony Barrett, Mick Brunson (Marine Patrol), Ann Finley, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn (O.L.), Chris Harry, Linda Kearney, Tom Kearney, Rod Knopp (Marine Patrol), Karen Limani, Martha Vandivort, Kris Walker and Everett Wood.

Thoughts from this mission:

- It's good to have friends who will come help us. Thank you, Karen and Dave!
- At this time of year, the weather is impossible to predict.
- We're glad no one was inside the porta-potty shelter when it blew over.
- Our unit rule is "We don't rescue vehicles." Efforts to be Good Samaritans on this day reminded us why it's a good rule.
- Don't believe what Mick tells you on April first.

NEWS NOTES

The January-February newsletter listed members who had passed the **Basic Tech class and test**. Add to that list David Ritzenthaler and David Thigpen.

Also listed in January-February were the members who had passed the **CPR certification** and received their cards. To that list, add Brian Fisher and Brian Mayer.

A **Field Certification class** (the basic intro class required for all new members) on March 18 moved seven applicants a step closer to joining the active call-out list. Alexandria Baldwin, Collin Garner, Diana Hornung, Vickie Moss, J.T. Slaughter, Shelly Staniec and Lori Thompson have completed the class and paid their first-year dues. As they pass their pack checks and background checks, they will be certified to the Training Director and to the Coordinator for fuller participation and begin their probationary year.

SNOW SHELTER TRAINING – FEBRUARY 18, 2006 --DAVID GOMEZ

The day was long and the night was cold, perfect for winter snow shelter training at Mores Creek Summit north of Idaho City. After training class on Tuesday night, instructed by Brad, there were a few hardy beginners and some seasoned veterans willing to brave cold winter nights in the mountains for training's sake.

The field training started on Friday night with activation of the phone tree to let everyone know we would be meeting at the Compound at 9:00 am on Saturday for the snow shelter training. At this point you had to ask yourself a few simple questions: Do I feel like packing in and spending the night with some crazies in a snow cave? Do I feel like putting my life on the line for some training? Do these guys know how cold it is going to be in the mountains? Do I have an excuse not to go?

There were a handful of brave explorers and eager students at the Compound bright and early (9:00 am could be early to some) ready to go. We saddled up Vehicle 902 (the rescue Suburban, to the rookies in the bunch) along with a few POV's (Personal Operated Vehicles) and headed into the rugged mountains. When we arrived at Mores Creek Summit above Idaho City, we all got our packs



Kris tests the roof of his cave. -Photo by D. Gomez

unloaded and strapped on our snowshoes and skis. In the parking lot we got more than a few skewed looks from people who thought we were nuts to willingly spend the night outside in the cold.

The group kind of decided to make the long trek, about 75 yards away from the vehicles, to start looking for suitable snow shelter locations. Eric and Brad, being a little more adventurous, decided to go quite a bit farther, to the top of the mountain, to set up camp.

I found a rather large tree well that would be fairly easy to make into a nice snow shelter. Kris and Bill found some suitable snow to make snow trenches while Mac decided on a snow cave underneath a tree well. Casey and Carl found a fallen tree covered by a snow drift that they decided to make a snow shelter complex out of.

Kris was done with his snow cave in under 2 hours while the rest of us worked on our caves off and on through the day at a leisurely pace. By about 3 pm everyone was done with their shelters and thinking they could stay the night in them. Kris and Mac had other things to do and left before



Bill constructs a trench shelter. -Photo by D. Gomez

nightfall, content that their caves would hold up to the chilly night. Eric and Brad came down to visit the IMSARU village in the afternoon so they must have also been done with their caves by then.

As things started to get dark, the temperature really started to drop. We heard on the radio that Idaho City was expecting minus-8 degree temperature so we knew our location would be even colder than that. I chickened out of staying in my tree well because it wasn't going to hold heat well enough for the sub-zero temperature. I abandoned ship and jumped into Kris's empty shelter and Bill gave up his own shelter for Mac's for more elbow room.

So now came the true test, six adventurers versus the cold. The true measure of how the caves worked would be if all six of us could make it through the night without needing to be treated for hypothermia. This snow shelter training could easily turn into some thermal wrap training, snow shelter cave-in training, or any other number of mishaps that could happen very quickly in sub-zero temperatures.

As morning came quickly, six survivors awakened bright-eyed and bushy-tailed to a clear crisp morning. O.K., so only the part about the morning is true. We did all wake up in good health and had slept warmly enough in our snow shelters. As for myself, I actually had to shed some layers through the night to keep from sweating in my snow palace.

Field training participants included Brad Acker, Casey Calico, David Gomez, Carl Kidwell, Bill Lindenau, Ross MacIntosh, Kris Walker and Eric Zuber.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

As always, we know we couldn't keep IMSARU going without the support of many friends and donors. We would like to publicly acknowledge the following, who have helped us since the last publication date:

Betty and Jack Robertson for a cash donation.

Grayce Seidenberg for a cash donation.

Adventure GPS for the donation of National Geographic TOPO map software for the state of Idaho.

Thyne Murdoch for a cash donation.

Marilyn and Earl Russell for a cash donation in memory of Brian Schelsky.

Jeff Anderson and Mike Hink of Micron Technology, Inc. for arranging a donation of office equipment and various other equipment to be used at the Compound.

Spectra Productions and Channel 7 for setting up the Trout Pond at the Spring Sportsman Show, providing all supplies and equipment, and giving us the occasion as a fundraiser.

Nelson's RV's for donating use of a trailer at the Trout Pond.

Individuals who donate via United Way and Global Impact, and *Hewlett-Packard* for matching donations through Global Impact.

TROUT POND – MARCH 2-5, 2006 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

The weather was gray, chilly and drizzly. We had trouble getting enough volunteers to fill the shifts—at least partly, I would guess, because we've had such a busy training schedule this year and people are tired. But Spectra Productions and Channel 7 set up the Trout Pond around the big fountain in front of the expo building, families came to the Spring Sportsman Show, and kids came to catch fish.

There were fewer total fish this year, but a lot more b-i-g ones, and that seemed to fuel enthusiasm. Members and friends did fill in to collect money, bait hooks, repair broken lines, remove hooks from caught fish, admit that we don't know what bait works best nor why fish bite at some times and not at others, and—unfortunately but always necessary—remind parents that the *kids* are supposed to be doing the fishing, not Dad.



These brothers caught big ones. -Photo by D. Gomez

Thirty-six different people worked shifts at the Pond, and we appreciate all of them. The gold star goes to Tom Kearney, who worked a shift each of the four days plus most of a second shift on Friday when someone else failed to show up! The following people each worked three shifts: Ann Finley, Collin Garner, Leni Sue Halle, Linda Kearney, Carl Kidwell.

Many thanks to Kris Scovel for making all the arrangements before taking off for a very important family weekend. We greatly appreciated Nelson's RV's for donating the use of a trailer for storage of our equipment and a place to take a break out of the weather. And we again thank Spectra Productions and Channel 7 for giving us this fundraising opportunity.

C.E.R.T. CLASS – MARCH SAR TRAINING --CHARLOTTE GUNN

The Community Emergency Response Team program teaches groups of people how to be prepared with their own families for emergency situations such as earthquakes, floods, major storms, public transportation accidents, etc. It includes many common-sense tactics: an emergency kit of food, water and equipment; a “shelter-in-place” area inside the home; a home evacuation plan, with rendezvous points and phone numbers both in and out of local area; having copies of important documents ready to go; ways to make one’s home less hazardous and things to check as soon as the first danger has passed (utilities, etc.)



At the C.E.R.T. Class, Karen demonstrates: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep.

—Photo by G. Gunn

Once one’s home and family are safe and secure, trained volunteers are ready to respond to help others in areas of light to moderate damage. Note that C.E.R.T. does *not* prepare anyone for fighting large fires, dealing with toxic materials or going into buildings with major structural damage. It does remind us of basic first aid (which all IMSARU members are expected to maintain anyway), reiterate the importance of sizing up the situation before rushing in, reinforce triage with the goal of using limited resources to do the most good for the most people, and offer suggestions for applying the Incident Command System to a disaster situation as well as things to consider when setting up the working areas and keeping records.

We spent two Tuesday evenings, all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon on classes, hands-on practice and a final simulation. Yes, it was fun to actually pull the pin on a fire extinguisher

and use it to put out a small fire in the parking lot. The final simulation was even more fun plus a fair amount of stress. We had a large dark room with an unknown number of people (final count was 16) in various stages of injury. The moulage was excellent! With furniture jumbled and piled, a size-up team checked for conditions that might be dangerous to rescuers, a triage team quickly checked and color-coded each “victim” and rescue teams then moved them out to areas designated for walking wounded, immediate treatment and morgue. Additional drama was provided by a “hysterical father” looking for his two sons, and a “body” in the morgue that groaned and moved.



This is moulage!

-Photo by M. Barlo-Brusse

Many thanks to our instructors Mary Barlow-Brusse, who coordinated the class, Michael Garner, and Brad Hufford. IMSARU members completing the class and now qualified to wear the green hard-hats are Tony Barrett, Danny Cone, Ann Finley, Collin Garner, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Chris Harry, Linda Kearney, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Karen Limani, Brian Mayer, Vickie Moss, Jerry Newland, Shelly Staniec, Lori Thompson, Rick Thompson, and Martha Vandivort.

CALENDAR

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the IMSARU Compound, 2519 Federal Way, Boise.

April 9	SAR K9 Training—Contact Linda Kearney at 321-1175	
April 11	Medical Training—Prep for Race to Robie Creek --Ron Moomey	7:30 p.m.
April 15	Race to Robie Creek—Contact Kris Scovel at 376-7573 IMSARU needs 25 volunteers!	All Day at the Race
April 18	SAR Training—Field Searching Skills and Tactics --George Gunn	7:30 p.m.
April 22	SAR Field Training—Mock Mission	Time & Place TBA
April 23	SAR K9 Training—Contact Ann Finley at 336-1485 [Subject to change, depending on schedule of previous day's training.]	
April 25	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
April 29	IMSARU Spring Cleanup Work Day Lunch provided.	9:00 a.m. At the Compound
May 2	SAR Training—Air Operations	7:30 p.m.
May 7	SAR K9 Training—Contact Tom Kearney at 321-1175	
May 9	SAR Training—Air Operations—Jerry Newland	7:30 p.m.
May 13	SAR Field Training—Air Operations—Jerry Newland	Time & Place TBA
May 16	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
May 19-21	Washington State SAR Conference at Enumclaw	
May 23	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
May 30	NO MEETING SCHEDULED—Stay tuned for further notice.	
June 3	SAR K9 Training—Contact Martha Vandivort at 338-0284	
June 6	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
June 13	SAR Training—Navigation	7:30 p.m.