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RESCUE

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

FOUNDING MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



**MISSING HUNTER IN CUSTER COUNTY – OCTOBER 18-20, 2006
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

Many readers have already read, heard and watched news stories about the elk hunter in the Fourth of July Creek and Strawberry Basin area a few miles from Stanley. When no one had heard from him by Sunday night, October 15, the Custer County Sheriff's Office and local personnel started searching for him. By Wednesday, they were getting tired and asked us to help. One concern was that searchers were working treacherous terrain and that, if a searcher was injured, they might well need technical resources to rescue him.



Searchers near point last seen.

—Photo by K. Walker

Since the request was that we send technically-qualified people as quickly as possible, we put in a call to the Ada County Aerial Sheriffs. Jerry Terlisner then tried to track down pilots who were available immediately, and found that most of their members were either out of town or had medical problems or other interference with their availability. He finally located one other qualified pilot and came himself, meeting five of our people (Casey, David, Carl, Lee and Eric) at the Boise Air-

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port and picking up Jerry at the Idaho City Airport. Local search personnel picked up this crew and their gear at the Stanley Airport and transported them to Base Camp at the Forest Service Ranger Station outside of Stanley. We aren't sure whether these six were relieved or disappointed that they were not deployed for the few remaining hours of daylight, but they entertained themselves and Jerry got filled in on the search so far. After work hours on that same Wednesday, the remaining eight members of our crew drove up to Stanley and found spots to sleep until early-morning breakfast and briefing.

Local weather (Stanley is at about 6,300 feet and the mountains go up from there) was unfriendly, with cold nights and snow. Jerry had volunteered the IMSARU team for the roughest section of Thursday's search area and all of our people (except George, who remained at Base Camp) and two search dogs tackled the steep terrain; they searched all day with no luck. On Friday, Martha was dispatched with chains on all four wheels to a high point where she could serve as radio relay; some of our people had had to return home but the rest were back in the field.



Approaching the Stanley search area was both awesome and worrisome.
—Photo by D. Gomez

By this time, there seemed little hope of the subject being found, let alone found alive. The Sheriff's Office was running out of resources and the subject's family was shifting Base Camp to a local hotel, from whence they planned to continue the search at least through the week-

end with our volunteers (Rod was just setting up the callout for additional IMSARU members) and some hired personnel. There was joyous pandemonium when the call came through that a re-search crew had met the subject, who was walking back to camp, and transported him the last few miles.



Field searchers rarely get to see the joyous reunion.
— Photo by G. Gunn

The subject, who had hunted the same area last year, stated that he had followed a creek, intending to continue along a tributary branch. However, he missed his tributary and followed a different branch. When he realized he was not where he intended to be, he sort of panicked and kept walking...all night. He somehow made his way over the crest of the White Cloud Mountains and ended up at a small high lake, exhausted, off his map, not knowing how to use his compass and/or GPS to find his way—and well beyond any logical search area. At this point, he built a shelter, made a fire, gathered a supply of wood, and placed pine-bough signals in the snow where they would be seen by air searchers...if any had gone that far. After three days with no searchers in the area, the subject realized that he would have to retrace his route. On Thurs-



Yep. Another Rocky “air bob”

day, he crossed into the search area after our teams had headed back to base for the night, so bivouacked one more night. On Friday, he reached his truck’s parking spot but the truck had been removed, so he kept walking until meeting the research crew. Tired, very hungry, but in amazingly good shape, this man returned to an exuberant reunion with family and friends.

Many thanks to the Custer County crew, especially to Incident Commander Levi Maydole, who ran this complicated search efficiently and with dedication; to Gary Gadwa who spent long hours in the field keeping people organized and safe; and to Mary Kramer who worked equally long hours doing the paperwork, radio log and having the answers that Levi and I needed. Custer County was searching the logical areas with all available

resources and there is no way to search every possible square mile of those mountains. The subject would now be the first to remind everyone that if you realize you don’t know where you are, you need to STOP—DON’T JUST KEEP WALKING.



Do you see the searcher in this picture? Imagine if he wore camo. This was one tough search for everyone.

—Photo by K. Walker



Part of the team that was searching for a missing hunter near Stanley, Idaho, poses for a picture on the ridge after hearing that the subject had been found.

Photo by Gary Gadwa

IMSARU members responding for one or more days included Casey Calico, Collin Garner, David Gomez, George Gunn, Tim Henning, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Jerry Newland, Josh Nichols, Lee Pierce, Martha Vandivort, Kris Walker, Mark Westerdoll and Eric Zuber.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2006 MISSION LOG **--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

October 1 – Missing ATV rider in Banner Ridge area above Lowman. See article in September-October newsletter.

October 10 – Missing 16-year-old hunter at Fox Creek in Grandjean area. See article in this issue.

October 14 – Missing hunter at German Creek, beyond Rabbit Creek Summit. See article in this issue.

October 18-20 – Missing hunter in Custer County. See article in this issue.

October 22 – Jet boat stuck in Lucky Peak Reservoir at Macks Creek. See article in this issue.

October 26 – Overdue hunter, camping in Willow Creek Campground. Jerry Newland and George Gunn responded to locate vehicle and determine whether there really was a problem. While they were en route, deputy located subject and search was cancelled.

November 4 – Possible missing hunter in Thorn Creek Butte area. See article in this issue.

THE ALMOST PERFECT SEARCH AND THE LESSONS LEARNED (GERMAN CREEK, BEYOND RABBIT CREEK SUMMIT)

OCT. 14, 2006

--LINDA KEARNEY

This is about the search for Mr. G on the 14th of October. The page didn't get us out of bed. We had plenty of time to get to the Unit. The sun was shining and it was warm but not hot. The subject, we were told at briefing, was a hunter, age 62 (+ or -), diabetic, wearing black pants and orange sweatshirt. He had no food or water with him. We were headed to Idaho City and then on 15 miles of dirt roads to arrive where we would place base camp. No problem--this is routine to us.

I follow 901 (unit truck) up to Idaho City. We come to the turn-off. The turn needs to be marked and I'm told to just go ahead. This is great: For the first time I'm in the lead; I'm not eating dust today. Naturally I don't want to give this spot up. I keep enough ahead of the others so I don't feel like I have to pull over. I am saying a prayer as I drive the road. I have two dogs with me, my husband's novice tracking/trailing dog, Breeze and my air-scent dog, Smokey. I am looking at all the hunters' rigs as I drive along. I don't really want to let Smokey out to look for this hunter. There are too many guns out there. I will add that 99.9% of hunters are great but it's the .1% that I have to worry about. Smokey is a dark-colored sable with good-size ears. I worry that even with his orange vest with bells on it, that he could be mistaken for something else. You also have to worry about the lost person you are trying to locate, as that person could be panicked or confused, think that Smokey was a wolf and therefore shoot at him. These are the risks you take and know that going in. My prayer is that we will find him before we have to let the dogs out.

I bump along for a few more miles and come around a corner, and guess what I see? I see this hunter walking down the road. He is wearing black pants and orange sweatshirt, and carrying a rifle. My mind is going "No, this can't be, I'm not this lucky... am I?" I pull up next to him and ask if he is Mr. G? And he answers yes. He looks great. He does have a blanket with him. He did have food in his pocket so he isn't hungry. He is thirsty, as he didn't have any water with him. By that time the others have caught up to me. Carl (our new



Linda, it is catch and release!

—Photo by K. Walker

first responder) checks him out. Mr. G is in my van and I am going to keep him. After all, I found him and it's "Finders keepers", right? I am going to take him into base camp. I take off down the road, thinking the others are going to follow. The road has plenty of turns so I might not see them behind me, so I don't think anything of it. I have asked Mr. G if he knows where his camp is and he said yes. What more do I need?

I hate to tell you how far down that road I drove after Mr. G insisted I must not turn where I thought I should. I did try radio contact but couldn't talk to anyone. It happens. Of course there was no place to turn around; I was driving a full-size two-wheel-drive Ford van so I needed a little space on firm ground. Meanwhile, back at base camp, the group was getting a bit concerned as to my whereabouts. Someone in the group said they had seen me make the turn to go to base camp. People met on the road were asked if they had seen a green van pass by and of course no one had seen me, as I wasn't on that road. I finally found a spot to turn around; we had seen some beautiful countryside. I tried radio contact again. Still couldn't talk to anybody, so I turned on the other radio and I could hear them talking about a missing green van. Soon I had radio contact and told them I was headed back. All was well. Father was reunited with his son at base camp and everybody had a great feeling. We joked about that being our catch-and-release, only I didn't want to release as fast as I could have. Yes, I was over the top with the emotions of finding my first subject, and he was my show-and-tell.

But, and this is a big but...the lessons learned on this mission are the following:

One: At the initial briefing, listen and write down all instructions--not just about the subject but where all the turns are as well. (I had been distracted there; I had Smokey in the meeting with me and a child on my lap. No worry; I am never in the lead).

Two: Check your radio once you are out in the field. (I had done a radio check at the Compound but my antenna had come lose from the bumpy road, hence no radio contact when I needed it most.)

Three: If only one person says someone made a turn but others can't back that up and the green van isn't where it should be – please send someone out on the only other road it could be on. (It would have taken a lot less time, and we could have been at Trudy's sooner).

I hope everyone has a good chuckle over this but remembers the points I have made. I learn something new from every mission I go on. This is a wonderful group to learn with. I would invite all to come join us, regardless of age, sex or race. We'll find something for you to do.

IMSARU members on this search included Casey Calico, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Chris Harry (aerial observer), Linda Kearney, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Carrie Kyrias, Randy Kyrias, Tim Henning, Ron Moomey, Lee Pierce, Dan Scovel, Kris Scovel, Martha Vandivort, Kris Walker, Everett Wood, Eric Zuber. Jerry Terlisner was the Ada County Aerial Sheriffs' pilot.

CALENDAR

- Dec. 2 Potluck Dinner and Christmas Party at the Lindenaus' home 7:00 p.m.
1407 S. Cotterell Way, near intersection of Overland and Maple Grove
- Dec. 3 K9 Training (tentative) Call Linda & Tom Kearney at 321-1175 for info.
- Dec. 3 Make & decorate bows for gift wrapping at Cabela's. 2:00 p.m.
At the Compound
- Dec. 5 General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound
- Dec. 8, 9, 10 Gift Wrapping at Cabela's
Call Kevin at 378-1339 to volunteer or sign up on the member lister.
- Dec. 12 SAR Training (Eric Zuber is new Training Director) 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound
- Dec. 15-24 Gift Wrapping at Cabela's
Call Kevin at 378-1339 to volunteer.
- Dec. 19 Medical Training (Collin Garner is new Medical Director) 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound
- Dec. 26 NO MEETING, due to Christmas holidays
- Jan. 1 Dues for 2007 are due. Pay them to Charlotte Gunn and get a receipt.
- Jan. 2 NO MEETING, due to New Year's holidays
- Jan. 9 General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound
- Jan. 16 SAR Training 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound
- Jan. 20 SAR Field Training Time & Place
T.B.A.
- Jan. 23 Medical Training 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound
- Jan. 30 Business Meeting 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound

Emergency Preparedness Pointers



Winter Driving Safety

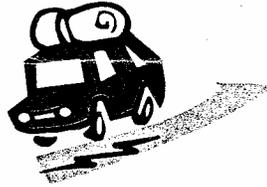


The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents. Preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost are the keys to staying safe this season.

Before You Travel

- ✱ Have a mechanic check the following items on your car.

- Battery
- Thermostat
- Antifreeze
- Heater
- Lights
- Brakes
- Exhaust system
- Ignition system
- Hazard lights



- Defroster
- Oil level
- Wipers
- Windshield washer fluid

- ✱ Install good winter tires.
- ✱ Keep a windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal. (See WINTER CAR KIT below)
- ✱ Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.
- ✱ Plan long trips carefully. Listen to the radio or call the Idaho Transportation Department for the latest road conditions at 336-6600. Always travel during the daylight and, if possible, take at least one other adult.
- ✱ Dress warmly. Wear layers of loose fitting, lightweight clothing.
- ✱ Carry food and water.

If You Get Stranded

- ✱ Stay in the car. Do not leave the car during a blizzard to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. You may become disoriented and get lost in blowing snow.
- ✱ Avoid overexertion. Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack.
- ✱ Display a trouble sign. Hang a brightly colored cloth on the radio antenna and raise the car hood.
- ✱ Occasionally run the engine to keep warm. Turn on the car's engine for about 10 minutes each hour. Run the heater and turn on the dome light when the car is running. *Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning.* Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow and open a down-wind window slightly for ventilation.
- ✱ Do minor exercises to keep up circulation.
- ✱ Clap hands and move arms and legs occasionally. Try not to stay in one position too long.
- ✱ If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping.
- ✱ For warmth, huddle together.
- ✱ Use newspapers, maps and removable car mats for insulation.

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ Winter Car Kit ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| ▪ Bottled water | ▪ Extra set of clothes | ▪ Tools (screwdriver, pliers, wrench) | ▪ Brightly colored cloth to use as a flag |
| ▪ Non-perishable food | ▪ Extra socks, gloves and hats | ▪ Small sack of sand for traction under tires | ▪ Essential medication |
| ▪ Non-electric can opener | ▪ Several blankets or sleeping bags | ▪ Tow chain | ▪ Plastic bags (for sanitation) |
| ▪ Flashlights and extra batteries | ▪ Matches and candles | ▪ Jumper cables | ▪ Toiletries and personal items |
| ▪ First aid kit | ▪ Small shovel | ▪ Set of tire chains | ▪ Games and cards |
| ▪ Pocket knife | ▪ Local maps | | |
| ▪ Flares | | | |



JET BOAT STUCK IN LUCKY PEAK RESERVOIR – OCTOBER 22, 2006 **--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

Arrowrock and Lucky Peak Reservoirs are irrigation impoundments, so they can be very wide and deep early in the season but drastically different in the autumn. Rod Knopp is Marine Deputy for Boise County, as well as being our unit Coordinator. He received a call that a boat was stuck at Macks Creek; as usual on such calls, information was limited. Not knowing what the situation was nor whether a power boat would be able to help, Rod called Kris Walker, who designs and builds boats and who has inflatables readily available—usually already in his vehicle.

Rod launched the county boat and started up the reservoir; Kris drove up and arrived first. Sure enough, a jet boat with four people on board had tried to go where the water was only ankle-deep. People were wading around it, trying unsuccessfully to lift it off the mudbar. Kris waded out to assess the situation first-hand and Rod found an accessible channel to get his boat in close enough to attach a tow rope. The combination of boat pulling and people lifting and shoving was successful; people and property were safe; an embarrassed and grateful boat owner expressed his thanks and was astonished to hear that his boat license fees pay for such service.

INTRODUCTION TO MANTRACKING – NOVEMBER 18, 2006 **--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

Kris Scovel and Dan Scovel, both Apprentice Trackers, taught a class on November 14 that showed some of the techniques and things one might see on the ground when trying to follow a person's track. They included the use of tools such as tracking sticks, tape measures and record cards, and invited us to meet them at the Compound at 8 a.m. on Saturday for a few hours of hands-on training.

On Saturday morning, fifteen of us accepted the invitation. After a demo of setting up one's tracking stick, we drove out to the former historical site beside Highway 21 and were divided into teams of two or three to follow the lines of sign that Kris and Dan had laid the previous evening. George, also an experienced tracker, was pulled out to help with instruction, but the rest of us got down close to the ground to look, discuss what we saw, draw the beginning print, and then work as a team to follow where the person went. I heard a lot of interaction as people shared what they were seeing, and many of us were fascinated to see the aging of the starting prints during a few hours of dry warmth. There were only positive comments about the experience, and many thanks to our instructors for starting some more people on a new skill.

After the class, we spent a few more minutes filling half a dozen big trash bags with the stuff that slobbs had scattered around the area. By the time you read this, the glass, plastic and aluminum will have all gone to recycling. We did not, however, pick up the three disgusting old mattresses.

Participants included Casey Fatzinger, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Tom Kearney, Carrie Kyrias, Randy Kyrias, Karen Limani, Mike Mancuso, Jim McColly, Rachell McColly, Vickie Moss, Josh Nichols, Jeff Pile, Kris Scovel, Dan Scovel, Lori Thompson and Rick Thompson.

THE END OF ONE STORY --CHARLOTTE GUNN

On April 8 of this year, a young man lost control of his car on the river road above Twin Springs and it plunged into the fast high water. The passenger escaped and managed to swim to shore; she said the driver was conscious and yelling to her to swim, but he never made it. We did a two-day search of the immediate area, then returned on July 15-16 after the water had subsided, but our searches found only a few items of clothing and equipment that may have come from the vehicle.

The second week of October, a fisherman found a partially-exposed body in an area that was an eddy earlier in the year, some ten miles downstream from the accident site. The body was identified as that of the missing man.

DUES ARE COMING DUE AGAIN

Yes, we “pay to play.” Not only do we volunteer our time, skills and personal equipment, we actually pay dues for the privilege. Our dues are for the calendar year, so plan on paying yours in January. Pay dues to Charlotte Gunn. You can leave a check in her mailbox with a note about what it’s for; if you are paying in cash, please hand that directly to her. Also, be sure to get a receipt. Continuing members pay \$30, which just about covers the per-member dues we then pay to state and national organizations, plus a bit for this wonderful newsletter. New member dues will be \$75 in 2007; most of the steep increase here is because the orange uniform shirts which we supply to new members have also increased steeply in price.

IMSARU CHRISTMAS PARTY—DECEMBER 2 AT 7 P.M.

This is our big social occasion and celebration each year. It will be a potluck dinner, with soft drinks, hot beverages and table service supplied by the unit. Spouses and special friends are invited to join us and listen to us tell stories (mostly true) of adventures in 2006 and in years past. Dress is as casual or as fancy as you choose...but you won’t see much orange.

We will present awards for special service, and also humorous awards for embarrassing or just plain funny moments.

This year the party will be held at the home of Bill and Marty Lindenau, at 1407 S. Cotterell Way. The following directions come from Bill; if you get lost on the way, call Bill at 850-3055. “Heading west on Overland, pass Maple Grove and turn right (north) on Cotterell Way. Stay to the right past Delaware. After you pass Delaware, there are two big willow trees, a stump, a pine tree and a maple tree in the yard on the left. The house has a brown roof.

SEE YOU SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, AT 7:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS GIFT-WRAPPING AT CABELA'S --CHARLOTTE GUNN

We will again be raising money for IMSARU by wrapping Christmas gifts for donations. This year, however, we will be working at the new Cabela's store on Franklin. (We have happily done this project for several years at R.E.I., but they have orders from national headquarters to reconfigure their store and no longer have any work space for us.) We have this year, for the first time, wrapped gifts on Friday through Sunday after Thanksgiving, knowing those are major shopping days but not knowing until we tried it whether people would be thinking yet about gift wrapping. Some of us who do not enjoy shopping as a crowd sport now know why we never venture out on "Black Friday."

We will also be working longer hours in December, so will need lots of help. We will wrap on the weekend of December 8-10. Starting on December 15, we will wrap every day through



The elves make this mound of paper strips "magically" become Christmas bows.

Christmas Eve. We will be on duty during all the open hours at the store. We know that everyone has lots of extra things to do before Christmas, but please make time to work a few shifts on this project. As with the Corn Booth, we welcome spouses, teenage children, friends and

neighbors who may be willing to join you...and you don't have to be artistic. We do rustic wrapping, with the bows hand-made ahead of time. There will have been at least two bow-making parties by the time you read this, and the work station will be set up with all supplies.

Kevin Schroeder is again coordinating this project, having had some help in the preliminary stage from Danny Cone and Kris Scovel. Please say yes when Kevin asks you to work. Better yet, call him at 378-1339 and volunteer, or sign up on the IMSARU member lister.

Special thanks to Beverly Ward and Byron Winmen at Cabela's for their help and encouragement in setting up this project.



Chris brings order out of the logistical chaos as Jerry (the IC) looks on. His many skills will be missed as we muddle through base camp setup.

—Photo by K. Walker

ADIEU, CHRIS!

Chris Harry, our Logistics Director for the past 3 years, Facilities Director before that, and VSAR advisor since 2002, is moving to Idaho Falls. We greatly appreciate all the time and energy he has devoted to IMSARU over the years, and wish him well in his new location.

Thanks to Tom Kearney for volunteering to step into the Logistics Director position for 2007, and to Collin Garner, Carl Kidwell and Josh Nichols for volunteering to take over the VSAR post.

OVERDUE HUNTER ABOVE GRANDJEAN – OCTOBER 10, 2006 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

Boise County Sheriff's Office asked us to search for a 16-year-old hunter who had been missing overnight in the Grandjean area. Jerry responded from his home in Idaho City; the rest of us left from Boise and got as far as Mores Creek Summit and a bit beyond before receiving word that the missing youth had been found.

Responding were: Mark Westerdoll, Martha Vandivort, Phil Sander, Lee Pierce, Josh Nichols, Jerry Newland, Carrie Laird Kyrias, Randy Kyrias, Carl Kidwell, Tom Kearney, George Gunn, Charlotte Gunn and Chris Harry as aerial observer with pilot Bill Miller of the Ada County Aerial Sheriffs.

**POSSIBLE MISSING HUNTER IN THORN CREEK BUTTE AREA
NOVEMBER 4, 2006
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

The pager went off at 5:49 a.m. with a request from the Boise County Sheriff's Office for us to look for a possible missing hunter, last seen on October 31. The Reporting Party was a casual acquaintance, who said that last year the subject shot an elk in the same area; his horse spooked, ran over him and broke some bones. Other hunters found him and helped him get out with his elk. This year, the RP had seen the subject when the RP arrived in the area. RP described the subject as carrying only minimal supplies for one night out, planning to hunt on opening day. When RP got his elk and departed the area, the subject's truck and trailer were still parked; RP feared another horse accident. As a good citizen should, he contacted the S.O. with his concern.

Since Jerry now lives in Idaho City, he is our advance scout for such incidents, so he went to the S.O. to find out what they knew. George called the RP, who gave additional information on where to look for the subject's vehicles and camp. Jerry then set out to locate these sites. He reported talking with an individual who had seen the subject on October 31. This witness suggested looking for the subject "at the horse camp," which he described as being another eight miles down a muddy road toward the river. The map indicated less than eight miles but it was still going to be a long muddy slog.

Owen, Josh and Dan started in from the bottom of Loggers Gulch, near Twin Springs. Other teams started down from the top. A Forest Service employee was reported as driving the Fisher Creek road but unable to get past a wash-out. At about noon, Chris encountered people who reported seeing a flare on Tuesday night. While searchers were trying to fix the location of this flare, other hunters arrived at base and said the subject wasn't missing; they had seen his truck the previous evening and gave its location. Mick and Carl, on ATV and motorcycle, proceeded to that location and found the subject. All teams were notified that subject was not missing nor in trouble, and that the mission was ending. There were tales of yucky mud, vehicles getting stuck and then being extricated, hunters angry that searchers were in "their" territory, and a subject surprised to hear that anyone was worried about him, but all returned home safely.



T. Gomez and M. Brunson are ready to hit the trail.
—Photo by D. Gomez

Members participating included Mick Brunson with ATV, David Gomez with motorcycles, Tamara Gomez (to ensure that David would have a cycling teammate), Chris Harry, Linda Kearney with Smokey, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Carrie Kyrias, Randy Kyrias, Owen Miller, Ron Moomey with ATV, Jennifer Newland, Jerry Newland (O.L. and I.C.), Josh Nichols, Dan Scovel. Charlotte Gunn and George Gunn handled in-town coordination.