

**WEB
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RESCUE

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

FOUNDING MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



**MUTUAL AID TO CUSTER COUNTY – MARCH 26, 2007
--WADE KIMBALL AND CARL KIDWELL**

IMSARU training on Saturday, March 24, focused on search skills. When we received the call-out on Sunday afternoon, reactions ranged from “at least we have a couple of hours to get organized” to “my pack is a shambles and clothing still in the wash. This is a lesson for future readiness.” Custer County Sheriff’s Office requested searchers for an alpine snowshoe search in the Pahsimeroi Mountain range; they also requested search dog teams. **(cont. on Page 4)**



—Photo by C. Kidwell

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SEARCH TACTIC TRAINING – MARCH 24, 2007 --JIMMIE YORGENSEN

Eric Zuber and team chose the perfect day in a great spot (Reynolds Creek) to teach search tactics to a diverse group of IMSARU members. The scenario had three campers spending the night in the Owyhee Mountains. One, a hunter, left camp headed west to hunt coyotes and did not return. The second, a hiker, left camp at a similar time heading east and did not return either. The third, a girlfriend of the hunter, reported the two missing and IMSARU was called in to perform search and rescue.



Do our GPSs say the same thing? And where is that on the map?



Rescue Randy travels back to base camp in style. —Photos by C. Kidwell

For training purposes the searches were conducted one at a time. The hunter was the first objective and members were divided into teams with a Canine Unit (Tom and his novice tracking dog Midge) taking the lead. It was a slow day for Midge as it took her nearly 22 minutes to track down and locate the subject—long before anyone else got close. The hunter was “deceased” and the location quickly turned into a crime scene. All teams converged on a nearby location to learn about securing the area and then conducting a grid search for “evidence” that Eric had planted—lots of footprints (thanks, Eric, for wearing distinctive sole patterns), a camelback pack, a camera case, a pop can and a cell phone. Our searchers’ grid lines were occasionally straight and most items were successfully located and turned over to the proper authorities conducting the investigation.

The second search was for the missing hiker. We used the tactics of a hasty search. Members again divided into two teams with Canine Unit

Charlotte and Xena accompanying Team One while Canine Unit Linda and Smokey went with Team Two. Each team received coordinants and deployed via slow 4wd to their respective locations which ended up being stiff hikes down to Reynolds Creek. At the bottom, Xena immediately plunged into the creek for refreshment. (Had I been wearing a fur coat and depending upon panting for my only cooling, I would have plunged in also.) The teams searched toward each other with Team One going down the creek while Team Two moved upstream. Team Two located the subject, covered with ticks and suffering from a broken leg. Team one and 901 relocated, took the litter and wheel down to Team Two, and assisted with the evacuation of the subject. All agreed that the litter wheel is a wonderful piece of technology for an uphill evacuation.

The third and most real search of the day was for Josh's GPS. Somehow that stinker just jumped out of his pocket and became lost. The capable IMSARU quickly rallied, put together a plan and successfully retrieved Josh's Rhino from the Owyhee desert.

As the evening shadows were growing long across base camp some of the members stayed behind to work the remaining dogs while others broke camp and headed for the Compound to put away the equipment.

Eric had some good help, and he did a great job of organizing and conducting very valuable training for both new and experienced IMSARU team members. Anyone who thinks good training sessions just happen should take a look at what was done ahead of time for this day. Not everything went as planned, but that's real life in the SAR world. And both the search techniques and the treating of a deceased subject as a crime scene were timely preparation for the mission call we received the next afternoon.

Participants included Jeremiah Clever, Paul Clever (guest), Ann Finley, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Linda Kearney, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Wade Kimball, Mike Mancuso, Bob Meredith, Josh Nichols, Jimmie Yorgensen and Eric Zuber.

You might ask Bob about the surprising scenery he noticed across the creek.

BASIC MANTRACKING CLASS TO BE HELD MAY 8, 10, 12-13

IMSARU will present an in-house training for all SAR and Law Enforcement personnel interested in learning the art of tracking. Whether you are a certified tracker or want to learn to follow sign, this class is for you. The class format follows the Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services format.

May 8 and May 10 will be classroom training at the Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit's Compound, 7:30-10:00 p.m. May 12-13 will be in the field both days. Saturday's work will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at about 11:00 p.m., so plan on doing some night tracking! Sunday's session will run from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The intent is to camp at the training location for the weekend—location to be determined. Participants will be responsible for their own food.

Cost for the class is \$10 to cover training materials. Class size is limited, so please register early by calling 208-376-7573 and asking for Kris or Dan Scovel.

[continued from Page 1] Five vehicles left the Compound in the early evening, picking up Jerry at Idaho City, and later followed by Wade (who received the call later) and his brother for company during the long ride. Dark, wet roads and freezing temperatures made it a long drive; everyone was thankful for the motel rooms arranged by Custer County. We had early wake-up calls for a 6 a.m. breakfast and a 7 a.m. meeting at the Sheriff's Office.

At the meeting, we recognized some familiar faces, including Incident Commander Levi May-



Base Camp at the search.

—Photo by K. Walker

dole, from our search in October; we felt very confident and comfortable working with this team. After a 50-mile drive to the Incident Command Post, about a quarter of a mile from the missing subject's car, we joined with personnel from other agencies including Bonneville County SAR, Idaho Fish and Game, the BLM and Reeder Flying Ser-

vice to receive a briefing. We were searching for a 57-year-old male who had reportedly left

home on March 16 to climb Jones Creek and failed to return as expected on March 19. There had been four inches of snow when the subject arrived in the area, though that snow was gone and the temperature would reach the 60's today. The subject's car had been located just two days ago.

Search assignments included mantrackers working a circle around the subject's vehicle, dog teams climbing the



As the search ended, a major storm was moving in.

—Photo by K. Walker

Donkey Hills to work airscents through an area where dog teams had reacted on the previous day, and ground teams conducting grid searches on the valley floor. Despite our training on Saturday, it was still difficult to maintain the search line and effectively search a ravine where brush varied from knee-high to six feet tall. The combination of sagebrush, thistles and undergrowth made keeping track of the line problematic.

Everett and Jerry remained at the ICP to help coordinate. Most of us out in the field do not get a chance to appreciate the orchestrated chaos at the Command Post. Jerry, a first-string IC himself, assisted with the search planning and coordination. Everett was our acting OL and did an excellent job of shuffling personnel and assignments as the helicopter discovered new points of interest and as new dog teams arrived from Bonneville County. As the search progressed, teams moved in and out of radio communications, making Everett's and Jerry's jobs even more difficult.

At about 2:30 p.m., a radio call from Dave Forker of Bonneville County SAR announced that he and his Airedale Bailey had found the body of the missing man. Although we always pray for a positive outcome, it had been nine days and searchers were prepared to face the reality. At least the family and friends of the missing man can now take the next steps in dealing with their grief. We debriefed, packed up and started the long drive home.

IMSARU participants included Dave Gomez, Tom Kearney with novice dog Breeze, Carl Kidwell, Jack Kimball (guest), Wade Kimball, Mike Mancuso, Jerry Newland, Phil Sanders, Kris Walker, Everett Wood, Jimmie Yorgensen.

GONE FISHIN' – TROUT POND, MARCH 1-4, 2007 --JOSH NICHOLS

Once again IMSARU held a fundraiser at the Sportsman's Show. Children 12 and under could donate a dollar for 15 minutes of very exciting pole-holding. If the fish were unusually hungry, they were caught, and could be kept or thrown back in exchange for a small prize. All of the fish, equipment, prizes and use of an RV trailer for storage were donated by various organizations and businesses, including Cabela's who were nice enough to have one of their employees at every shift ready and willing to get us any additional supplies or support.

As I was leaving the Trout Pond after my last shift, Tom asked me to write up this article for the newsletter. Why he asked me, I have no idea. I didn't put in the most time; that was Clint Matthews, with over 25 hours. I didn't organize all the donations and arrangements; that was Kris Scovel. I didn't organize the volunteer workers; that was Tom and Linda Kearney. I was just one of 34 IMSARU members who worked during that weekend.

Thanks to all those volunteers, to Seventh Heaven for supplying the trailer, to Cabela's for the equipment, to Spectra Productions and Channel 7 for setting up the pond and the publicity.

Trout Pond volunteers included *Brad Acker, Xandra Baldwin, *Casey Calico, Lynde Christensen, Ed Emmel, *Ann Finley, *Collin Garner, *David Gomez, *Tom Kearney, *Linda Kearney, *Carl Kidwell, Wade Kimball, Karen Limani, *Ross MacIntosh, Mike Mancuso,

*Clint Matthews, Bob Meredith, *Ron Moomey, Mike Morrison, Vicki Moss, Jeff Munn, *Wyatt Nebeker, *Josh Nichols, Jeff Pile, Vern Rae, Phil Sander, Kris Scovel, *Lori Thompson, *Rick Thompson, Tom Wheless, Everett Wood, Rose Wood, *Jimmie Yorgensen and Eric Zuber.

[* indicates more than one shift]

MISSING PERSONS – FEBRUARY 13, 2007

Shortly after 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Boise City Police requested our help in searching for three missing people, an 18-year-old female and two males, ages 24 and 37. They had reportedly left Boise at around noon on Saturday to go coyote hunting, returned to town at about 5 p.m. because of equipment problems, then left again after stating they would be home at about midnight. The female did not show up for a babysitting job on Sunday and the males did not appear at work on Monday morning. Calls to their cell phones went unanswered. A friend who had been invited to accompany them in the past said they hunted in the Kuna or Blacks Creek area, and we received a description of the vehicle. Boise P.D. especially wanted an aerial search of the wide areas of high desert mentioned.

Rod arranged with the Ada County Aerial Sheriffs for Jerry Terlisner and John Switeer to fly and Bob Meredith and Owen Miller to go as spotters. He also dispatched five ground searchers, two with ATVs, to the Blacks Creek area. Jerry set up a field base at Three Point Mountain and additional searchers reported in as they became available.

When the primary search areas yielded no results, Boise P.D. requested that the planes check the Swan Falls area and watch for a vehicle over the edge on any road; ground teams continued on up to Prairie. Staff at the Y Stop in Prairie reported that two people, matching the descriptions of two of the subjects and their vehicle, had stopped there for burgers late Saturday afternoon, identified themselves as coyote hunters and asked for directions to Boise.

Our aerial searchers returned to Boise, having seen no sign of the missing subjects. Just before 7 p.m., we received word that one of the male subjects had walked out to Idaho City and reported the vehicle and other two subjects stranded in the snow somewhere on the Rabbit Creek Road. Boise County Sheriff's personnel and Forest Service personnel from Twin Springs were en route with snowmobiles, and all our searchers were rerouted. The second male subject was retrieved from the car; media reports said he was treated and released. The female, deceased, was found in the snow away from the vehicle.

Members participating included Danny Cone, Tom Kearney, Bill Lindenau with ATV, Bob Meredith (aerial spotter, then ground team), Owen Miller (aerial spotter), Jerry Newland (O.L.), Lee Pierce, Kris Walker, Mark Westerdoll, Everett Wood with ATV and Eric Zuber. Rod Knopp handled the in-town coordination. Jerry Terlisner and John Switeer were the pilots.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2007 DUES?

According to our by-laws, annual dues must be paid by the first meeting in April. That's April 3 this year, and we want your money before the IRS gets it all. If you haven't paid your dues by the time you read this, you are about to be removed from the IMSARU membership list and from the mailing list of this exciting publication. Below is a list of those who have paid; if you think you have but your name isn't here, check your checkbook record and then contact Charlotte ASAP. Dues for new members are \$75; for continuing members the fee is \$30. (Yes, it's unfair that you have to pay in order to volunteer your time, skills and equipment, but until IMSARU wins the lottery....)

2007 DUES PAID AS OF March 30, 2007

Acker, Brad	Mancuso, Michael (new)
Barrett, Tony	Mathews, Diane
Bonebrake, Nathan (new)	McColly, James (new)
Brunson, Jason (from VSAR)	McColly, Rachel (new)
Brunson, Mick	Meredith, Bob (life)
Calico, Casey	Miller, Owen
Cheyney, Winston	Moomey, Ron
Clever, Jeremiah (new)	Morrison, Michael (new)
Cone, Danny	Moss, Victoria
Cooper, Jim	Munn, Jeff
Culley, Todd	Nebeker, Wyatt (new)
Engleman, Tony (life)	Nichols, Josh
Fatzinger, Casey (new)	O'Bryan, Phil
Finley, Ann	Pierce, Reginald "Lee"
Garner, Collin	Pile, Jeffery
Gomez, David	Rae, Vern
Greene, Rich (new)	Ritzenthaler, David
Griffin, Jason (new)	Sander, Phil
Gunn, Charlotte (life)	Scovel, Dan
Gunn, George (life)	Scovel, Kris
Henning, Tim	Segadelli, Jesse (new)
Kearney, Linda	Strasser, Ted (life)
Kearney, Tom	Thigpen, David
Kidwell, Carl	Thompson, Lori
Kimball, Wade (new)	Thompson, Rick
Klein, Bob (life)	Vandivort, Martha
Knapp, Doug	Walker, Kris
Knopp, Rod (life)	Westerdoll, Mark
Kyrias, Carrie	Wheless, Tom
Kyrias, Randall	Wood, Everett (life)
Lesmeister, Ryan (new)	Yorgensen, Jimmie (new)

Limani, Karen

Zuber, Eric

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We greatly appreciate the support of the following individuals and organizations:

Spectra Productions, Channel 7 and Cabela's for making possible our fund-raiser at the Trout Pond at the Sportsmen's Show. Cabela's provided the supplies and also sent personnel who checked for any needs and sometimes stayed to help with the crowds. Spectra Productions and Channel 7 again set up the pond and did the publicity.

Biz-Print for collating and folding our newsletters.

Idaho Power for the VIP cash award in recognition of **Eric Zuber's** volunteer work with us.

Mark Mason for donating two sleds for use behind snowmobiles.

Individuals who donated through United Way and the H-P employee giving program.

Thyne Murdoch for a cash donation.

Todd Culley for a cash donation.

David Ritzenthaler for a cash donation.

IMSARU also received cash donations **in memoriam for Charles Scovel** from the following:

L. A. Schultheiss

Higgins & Rutledge Insurance, Inc.

Cecile & Ralph Piehl

Dennis & Linda Charters

J. J. & M. D. Iriondo

Robert & Bessie Skinner

Phyllis & Jerry Evans

Judy Smith & Jake Field

V. Jean Hall

Peggy Barker

Patricia & William Taylor

Tori Beauclaire

Barbara Dickinson

Dan & Kris Scovel

Jeanne & Floyd Nobbs

Shelly Barrie

Carol & Gene Barrett

Doris Skaar

Kathryn Skinner & Ross Oyen

Zora & Gary Poppenhouse

*Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, Inc. is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) corporation. We have no paid personnel; all our members provide their own personal equipment as well as their time and skills for training, service projects, fundraising and missions, and often use their own vehicles as well. The only public funding we receive is through the state search-and-rescue fund which reimburses some very specific direct expenses of some missions. (This reimbursement does not include any payment for individuals' time, and there is no reimbursement at all for body search-and-recovery missions.) **We thank the donors who help us maintain the organization, training and equipment that keep us ready to respond when called.***

CALENDAR

- April 7 K9 Team Training – Call Tom Kearney at 321-1175
- April 10 SAR Training: High-line Technique—Bob Meredith 7:30 p.m.--Compound
- April 14 SAR Field Training: High-line Technique Time & Place TBA
NOTE: These sessions are NOT just for the tech team. They are an introduction so that everyone can see how it works and know how to help with the non-technical tasks.
- April 12-15 SARCON at Reno
- April 17 Medical Training—Prep for Race to Robie Creek 7:30 p.m.--Compound
- April 21 Race to Robie Creek: **Need 20-25 volunteers!**
Call Kris Scovel at 376-7573 to sign up
- April 21 Eastern Oregon SAR Conference at LaGrande
- April 22 K9 Team Training – Call Winston Cheyney at 345-6329
- April 24 Business Meeting 7:30 p.m.--Compound
- May 1 General Meeting 7:30 p.m.--Compound
- May 6 K9 Team Training – Call Charlotte Gunn at 378-7787
- May 8 & 10 SAR Training – Mantracking – Kris & Dan Scovel 7:30-10 p.m. Compound
- May 12-13 SAR Field Training – Mantracking – See announcement on page 3.
- May 15 Medical Training 7:30 p.m.--Compound
- May 19-20 Washington State SARCON
- May 22 Business Meeting 7:30 p.m.--Compound
- June 2 K9 Team Training – Call Martha Vandivort at 338-0284
- June 5 General Meeting 7:30 p.m.--Compound
- June 12 K9 Handlers' Meeting 6 p.m.--Compound
SAR Training 7:30 p.m.--Compound
- June 16 K9 Team Training – Call Linda Kearney at 321-1175

NOTE: I.D. photos will be taken the first Tuesday of each quarter -- April 3, July 3, Oct. 2.

K9 WATER SEARCH TRAINING, MARCH 10-11, 2007 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

What would you expect if you signed up for a Water Search Dog training seminar the second weekend of March, in Fall City, south of Seattle? Right! You'd expect to get wet. How about if you checked into your campground on Friday evening and were asked to keep your cell phone on because a major storm was predicted to drop up to 18 inches of rain in the high country and flash flood warnings were posted for Saturday on many rivers, including the one running beside the campground?



Xena is focused on the diver hidden under the water.

-Photo by G. Gunn

Well, it wasn't as bad as predicted, though we did move to a different campground for Saturday night and we did get wet. Instructors

Marcia

Koenig and Stacie Chandler had classroom sessions on Saturday morning, covering topics like scent theory, training equipment and materials, and questions about old and new ideas and problems. After our pizza lunch, we moved out to Rattlesnake Lake for hands-on work during the remaining hours and again on Sunday. (Sunday's work was planned to be on the river, but for obvious reasons we continued at the lake.) Dog teams had the chance to get acquainted with divers in neoprene, to work shore problems on both cadaver material and Pseudoscent, to let novice dogs get experience riding on boats (small aluminum boat and inflatable, both with electric trolling motors), to search from boats for divers and for cadaver material placed under the water.

Marcia and Stacie had deliberately limited the number of dogs; with only nine, the teams still ranged from ones where neither handler nor dog had any water experience to teams whose handlers have done fairly extensive water search with previous dogs. I might add that the teams came from as far away as Wyoming and Juneau. Sunday's lunch was gourmet picnic fare, and those of us who had the longest routes home got first dibs on working the afternoon problems. Thanks, Marcia and Stacie, for setting up the seminar, and thanks to all the others—especially the divers—who made it possible.

IMSARU teams participating included Tom Kearney with Breeze, Charlotte Gunn and George Gunn with Xena.