

**WEB EDITION**

**RESCUE**

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

FOUNDING MEMBER:  
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE  
ASSOCIATION**



**MISSING IN FOOTHILLS—DECEMBER 24, 2007  
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

It was about 11:30 p.m. on December 23 when Ada County requested our help in locating two 18-year-olds who had gone out to look at Christmas lights, late the night before. There had been some text messages and broken voice messages that suggested their vehicle was not running; the cell tower vector indicated an area northwest of Boise. The last known communication was at around 9 a.m. on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Descriptions indicated the subjects were wearing the usual jeans, one with “a light jacket” and the other with “a black coat”—not highly recommended attire for spending the night out at this time of year when it’s raining and snowing.

Ada County Sheriff’s officers were checking roads as far as their patrol vehicles would allow. After obtaining information from the Ada County command post, we sent teams out in the early-morning hours via 4wd vehicles to search where they requested: Bogus Basin Road to the ski area, Cartwright Road from Bogus Basin Road to Dry Creek, and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Extension to the locked gate and then side roads off of Bogus Basin Road. All searchers looked for the missing vehicle, pedestrians, and any signs that vehicles had left the main roads. None found anything helpful. Our teams returned home before daylight.

According to various media reports, the missing young people returned home around 10 a.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup>. They had either (a) finally managed to contact a friend by phone and he came up to get their vehicle back in service, or (b) heard construction sounds early in the morning, walked half a mile to the construction site near Highway 55, and there obtained help to get their vehicle moving again.

IMSARU searchers included Winston Cheyney, Lynde Christensen, Collin Garner, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Bill Lindenau, Mac Mackintosh, Clint Matthews, Lee Pierce, Dan Scovel and Jimmie Yorgensen. George Gunn and Charlotte Gunn handled in-town coordination.

## BASIC TRAINING – MOCK MISSION – JANUARY 20, 2008 CHARLOTTE GUNN

New Member Coordinator Ron had the bright idea that we should offer our new members a hands-on introduction to what happens on a mission, rather than having them go from classroom sessions and perhaps two or three field trainings on specific topics directly into a real mission. So we met at the Compound at 8 a.m. and walked through the steps: Park personal vehicles appropriately (complicated by arrivals for the First Responder class, also meeting at the Compound) and where to leave your keys if you're not driving it on the mission; sign in (John was designated to see that this happened); go through the unit vehicle check lists and move them out of the garage; attend briefing by Carl, O.L. for this exercise; sort out who is driving and who is riding with; head for the field location. It was atypical that we were doing this in daylight and going only a few miles, but no one expected 100% realism. The advantage was that we could go through procedures and ask questions, not just do it and run.



Tuesday-evening practice of litter packaging and transport in preparation for the mock mission.

—Photo by G. Gunn

Once on scene, our Logistics Director Tom supervised unloading of the trucks and set-up of Base Camp. We did economize by using the large pop-up shelter rather than the more challenging big pole tents, but it was still a valuable exercise in loading and unloading 901. Carl kept Mike in Base Camp for communications and sent Team One out on a hasty sweep along a dirt track through the sagebrush. This team found lots of things, from footprints of all ages to a tin of chew to smashed pumpkins to containers of frozen liquids. The only one that got much reaction from Base was the report of finding Santa Claus lying face-

down on the track. (O.K., we did neglect to say immediately that Santa was a small doll figure.)

Team Two drew another dirt track for hasty sweep, and they were almost to the end of it when eagle-eyed Tom spotted something strange in the middle of a pile of sagebrush. Sure enough,

there was “Buster,” with his bright orange shirt hidden under a black garbage bag. Unresponsive and obviously hypothermic, Buster was moved to a clearer spot where the searchers could wrap him in a space blanket and extra clothes with heat packs while they awaited more resources. Our suggestion that there was an adequate helicopter L.Z. right next to the victim was vetoed by Base personnel, who thought we needed the practice in litter evacuation.

The medical team brought out our wheeled litter, and team members rolled Buster onto a backboard, strapped him down with the Velcro “spider,” lifted him into the litter and added more strapping. (The Tuesday evening training by Owen Miller had been patient packaging and transport.) Morris became litter team director and Ron led the passage through the brush so that people got practice for those many times when the subject is not near a road...Not that the “road” in question was actually a better surface, when the litter team tried to decide whether it was harder to walk in the deep rut and reach up to steady the litter or to put the wheel in the rut and lean down to the litter.

Back at Base Camp, we debriefed—including the information that Team Two had not been expected to find the hidden Buster on a hasty sweep, refueled with food and hot drinks, and gave everyone a chance to be strapped into the litter and see how it feels to be the victim for a short trip. The last real challenge was to break camp and figure out how to get all that stuff back into 901. Back at the Compound, the newer members got a taste of what’s involved in putting things away so they’ll be ready for the next mission; they will get the real experience when everything comes back wet and muddy.

Newer members participating included Chris Abruzzese, John Ferguson, Morris Hardy, Kim Juda, Bill Kearns, Ann Moser, Mario Watkins and Avery Wynings. More experienced members serving as mentors included Charlotte Gunn, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Mike Mancuso and Ron Moomey.

**STATISTICS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007  
AS REPORTED TO MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION**

**Total Number**

Missions, including stand-bys	29	Missions outside primary service area	2
Mission person-hours	1904	Missions where aircraft were used	7
Subjects rescued	12	Missions where medical aid was performed	3
Search missions	13	Public education presentations	11
Technical missions	5	Public education person-hours	180
Avalanche missions	0	Training events	45
Recovery missions	2	Training person-hours	2200
Subjects recovered	2		

**Activity Types**

Hiking	2	Hunting	4
Climbing	2	Aircraft	1
Skiing (downhill & cross-country)	0	Automobile/Motorcycle	9
Snowboarding	0	Mountain Biking	0
Snow Machine	5	Other	6

## **WELFARE CHECK NEAR ARROWROCK DAM – JANUARY 8, 2008 --DANNY CONE**

Our first meeting of 2008 was underway when Rod called, relaying a request from the Boise County Sheriff's Office to do a welfare check on a family a few miles above Arrowrock Dam. The family, including at least a couple of children, was reported to be living in a converted school bus and there was concern about their preparedness for the cold and heavy snow. B.C.S.O. officers would meet us at Spring Shores Marina, and requested snowmobiles for the upper part of the road. Members looked at each other and asked "Do I have my pack with me and am I equipped for a snow mission?" Meeting attendance shrank as ten members accepted the mission and others worked on in-town preparation.

Collin headed home to get his snowmobiles, with Owen preparing to accompany him. Jerry and Carl started up to Idaho City to get Jerry's machines. I had brought my truck with snow blade over to clear the Compound parking lot before the meeting, so George supplied boots for Lee and sent the two of us out the gate. The road was icy, with several inches of snow by the time we reached the marina parking lot, where the sheriff and a deputy awaited us. With an official spotlight aimed at one side of my truck and official headlights at the other, we chained up all four wheels and led the parade on up around Lucky Peak Reservoir just as Rick and Lori pulled into the marina lot in 901 and stopped to chain up.

I dropped the blade and pushed about 8 inches of snow. If we ran over 20 mph the snow came over the plow and filled the windshield, so it was a slow trip...and the snow was about 12 inches deep by the time we reached our destination. We pulled up past the converted bus and lit it up with the spotlight, as did the two marked units. After the Sheriff made contact, we proceeded up another quarter of a mile and cleared a turn-out so everyone could turn around. At this time, Lee called and told everyone else to stand by, as we had accomplished our goal.

The sheriff verified that the kids were OK and that the family had heat and food; they stated that they plan to camp there through the winter. After about 20 minutes, we headed back down, plowing a wider path as we went. Two-thirds of the way down, we met Collin and Owen on snowmobiles; they said that since they had come that far they were going to play for a while. Back at the marina lot, the sheriff gave us a quick debriefing and also stated that he was glad we were able to do this with our vehicles, as he hadn't been looking forward to freezing on a snowmobile. We returned to the Compound at about midnight.

IMSARU members responding included Rick Thompson, Lori Thompson, Lee Pierce, Jerry Newland, Owen Miller, Clint Matthews, Carl Kidwell, Tom Kearney, Collin Garner and Danny Cone. In-town Coordinator was Rod Knopp.

[Editor's Note: We really appreciate how generously Danny uses his toys for volunteer search and rescue. However, please don't get the idea that you can just call IMSARU whenever a snowplow would be handy.]

## CALENDAR

Feb. 5	SAR Training—Avalanche Safety	7:30 p.m.
<b>Also, Feb. 7 (Thursday)</b>	--Winston Cheyney and Mark Westerdoll)	At the Compound
Feb. 9-10	SAR Field Training—Avalanche Safety (Winston Cheyney and Mark Westerdoll)	Bogus Basin Buttercup Parking Lot
<b>Information about the weekend training will be given during the Feb. 5 &amp; 7 classes.</b>		
Feb. 12	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 19	Medical Training—Airway Emergencies & Mgmt.	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Field Certification Class for New Members	6-10 p.m. (May run later than 10.)
Feb. 24	Search Dog Training—Contact Ann Finley at 336-1485	
Feb. 26	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 4	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 9	Search Dog Training—Contact Linda Kearney at 321-1175	
Mar.11	SAR Training—Map & Compass Navigation	7:30 p.m.
Mar.15 [16?]	SAR Field Training—Map & Compass Navigation	Time & Place TBA
Mar. 18	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 25	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Apr. 1	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Apr. 6	Search Dog Training—Contact Winston Cheyney at 345-6329	
Apr. 8	SAR Training	7:30 p.m.
Apr. 12-13	SAR Field Training	Time & Place TBA
Apr. 15	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Apr. 20	Search Dog Training—Contact Tom Kearney at 321-1175	

**NOTE: Except for Search Dog Trainings, which are held in various locations, all events that do not mention place will be at the Compound, 2519 Federal Way.**

**IT WAS A WRAP – NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 24, 2007**  
**--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

We again wrapped gifts at Cabela's for donations, as our second-biggest fundraiser of the year, and, as always, there were some changes and some surprises. We started at 6 a.m. on Black Friday, which is a wonderful time to watch human behavior, worked weekends at first and then every day during the later rush. Changes included a different location which was excellent both for visibility and for work space, and our making a fairly hefty investment in equipment (love those big paper roll cutters!) and supplies because we knew more what to expect in terms of customer volume. Surprises included differences in when we were busy (in 2006, almost no customers wanted to take time for gift-wrap during the first few hours of Black Friday; in 2007 it was 10 a.m. before we had time to catch our breath) and how many hand-made bows we really needed (we thought we were doing well by starting in October and making about 2,000 bows; for 2008, we may have bow materials at the Corn Booth in August for work during the slow hours of some weekday shifts.)

What hadn't changed is that slower times at the wrapping table were great excuses for shopping "while I'm here" and that we owe thanks to so many people. Everyone at Cabela's was friendly and helpful, but we especially thank Byron Wimmer and Beverly Ward. In IMSARU, Owen Miller and Carrie Kyrias started the scheduling, then Martha Vandivort earned her halo by stepping in when it got to crunch time. Jeff Munn made a sturdy stand for our carousel paper holder and also showed up every night at closing to pick up the money; Kris Scovel not only ordered the advance materials but stopped by after work every day to check on supplies and go buy anything needed. And dozens of members, along with their relatives and friends, joined bow-making parties or made bows at home, helped set up and tear down, and worked multiple shifts. Some of us are more artistic—maybe even neater or more coordinated—than others, but every single person made an important contribution. I did hear a rumor that one female customer dropped \$20 or so in the donation box, stating that she didn't need any gifts wrapped but got her money's worth in entertainment as she watched the male crew on duty.

**MANY THANKS!**

Again we want to thank the people who help make it possible for us to keep going financially:

**Diane and Steve Fields** – cash donation

**Keith and Kimberly Nottingham** – cash donation in memory of Russell Reed

**Employees of the Facilities and Operations Department of the Boise School District**

--cash donation in memory of Russell Reed

The **IPC Surgical Center** (Lewistor) - cash donation in memory of James (Jim) D. Butler

Individuals who donated to us during 2007 via **United Way** and the **Hewlett-Packard**

**Employees** Giving Program, with donations matched by **Hewlett-Packard**

The **Ada/Elmore Employees' Community Assistance Fund** and the **IDACORP, Inc.**

**Shareholders** for a grant of \$1,000 toward training and new equipment.

The Boise **Cabela's** store, and especially **Byron Wimmer** and **Beverly Ward**, for again offering us the chance to wrap gifts for donations during the Christmas shopping season.

We are an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) corporation, with no paid officers nor staff. We never charge anyone for our services, and we respond whenever and wherever an official agency requests our help for missing, injured or stranded individuals.

## 2008 DUES ARE DUE NOW

Yes, we not only supply our own personal equipment, time and skills, we also pay annual dues each calendar year. Currently, dues for continuing members are \$30, of which over half goes to pay unit dues to the Mountain Rescue Association, NASAR and the Idaho State Search and Rescue Association. Those who have pagers with discrete numbers pay \$36 per year to keep them operational. (Pagers with only the group number do not require a fee.)

The following people have already paid 2008 dues before press time. If you think you paid but your name is not on the list, talk to Charlotte. (Those listed as Life Members do not pay dues; most did so for 20 or more years before receiving that status. New members have paid a \$75 fee, which covers various beginning costs.)

Abruzzese, Chris (new)	Hastriter, Aimee	Noland, Jim
Barrett, Tony	Johnson, Michael S. (new)	Scovel, Dan
Beecham, Jay	Kearney, Linda	Scovel, Kris
Calico, Casey	Kearney, Tom	Strasser, Ted (life)
Campbell, Eric (new)	Kidwell, Carl	Thompson, Lori
Engleman, Tony (life)	Kimball, Wade	Thompson, Rick
Ferguson, John	Klein, Bob (life)	Vandivort, Martha
Finley, Ann	Knopp, Rod (life)	Watkins, Mario (new)
Gomez, David	Limani, Karen	Webster, Rick
Gunn, Charlotte (life)	Mancuso, Mike	Wheless, Tom
Gunn, George (life)	Matthews, Clint	Wood, Everett (life)
Hardy, Morris (new)	Meredith, Bob (life)	Wynings, Avery (new)
Hassel, Ron (new)	Moser, Ann (new)	Yorgensen, Jimmie

**Our by-laws state that dues must be paid by the first meeting in April in order for a member to continue on active status.** You can either pay Charlotte in person or mail a check made out to IMSARU to the Compound.

## FAREWELL TO MOCHA

Mocha, a female German Shepherd, was Jeff Munn's search dog. She was the daughter of Alexa, also a search dog. Mocha earned her name by her puppy trick of slurping at Jeff's hot beverage, but she grew into better manners and a friendly approach to all people. Some of us still remember the younger Mocha traveling those rough miles down the washed-out trail of the Crooked River search and remaining alert for when the team reached the missing people.

By age 14, Mocha was deaf and blind but still had a loving home with the Munn family until her death in mid-January. Now those physical handicaps are over. Free dog, Mocha! Run free!

## February 2008

# Emergency Preparedness Pointers

## Take Your Pet On The Ride For Its Life

Many of us like to take short trips with our household pets. We gather a few items such as a leash, pet litter bags or a carrier. Just a few basics to make sure our pets will be safe and the trip will be enjoyable. Sometimes its a trip to the park or maybe a family vacation. But have we made all the necessary preparations to take our pets on the trip that could save their lives? During a disaster, home evacuation may be necessary. No one should be left behind. We all need to be sure that our pets are a part of our family disaster plan.

### The Seven P's

*Prior Proper Planning Precludes the Possibility of Poor Performance*

During an emergency there is no time to make a plan. Planning ahead will ensure that your family and pets receive the best care possible during an evacuation.



#### Where do you go?

- Contact motels and hotels outside the area. Ask them if they have restrictions on size, type and species of pets. There are several websites that list pet friendly facilities. Some places with a no pet policy may waive the policy during an emergency.
- Call friends and relatives outside the area and see if they can shelter your pets.
- Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinary hospitals that may be able to shelter your animal(s). Include the 24 hr emergency numbers on the list.
- Call your local animal shelter and find out if they provide foster care. This option should be a last resort as shelters will have limited resources that will be stretched to the limit during an emergency.

#### Your Pet's Disaster Kit

- Food and water for five days with plastic bowls and a can opener if needed.
- Medications and veterinary records stored in a waterproof container. Include a basic pet first aid kit as part of this container.
- Toys, blanket and /or bed.
- Litter box, scoop, disposal bags and litter
- ID attached to your pet — Make sure it includes your out of state contact information.
- Pet carrier, leash, harness — These need to be sturdy items that will allow for the safe transport of your pets while keeping them from escaping. Your pet may have to be in a carrier for hours, so it should be large enough for them to stand up and turn around.
- Current photos of your pet and a written physical description.



### What if you're not home when disaster strikes?

Find a trusted neighbor that knows your pet. Make sure they have access to your pet and the disaster kit when you are not home. Give them a copy of your evacuation plan and verify that they know the location of your family meeting place outside the neighborhood.

### Returning Home

Do not allow pets to roam loose immediately upon returning home after a disaster. Sights, smells and landmarks may have changed. Animals can become disoriented. Be patient and slowly return them to their normal routine.



Ada City -County Emergency Management  
7200 Barrister Drive ♦ Boise, ID. 83704 ♦ (208) 577-4750 ♦ FAX (208) 577-4759  
HOME PAGE: [www.accem.org](http://www.accem.org) ♦ E-MAIL: [pmarusich@adaweb.net](mailto:pmarusich@adaweb.net)

## **TRUE COSTS OF BEING A SAR MEMBER --GEORGE GUNN**

Search and Rescue is a “pay-to-play” endeavor. The general public is ignorant of most of the costs that we incur in order to do our important life-saving work. It is important that as a unit we acknowledge the wider circle of support that makes it possible to get a response into the field.

Families, significant others, generous friends and tolerant employers rarely get acknowledged for their critical role in the search or rescue that captures the media’s fleeting attention. Yet they truly make this all possible.

Elsewhere in this issue is a statistical report we sent to the Mountain Rescue Association. There isn’t a category for the interrupted dinners, the juggling of child and pet care duties. Where do we acknowledge that something else was not purchased with those dollars that bought fuel to go on the mission or replaced a piece of SAR gear? No one is tracking the sleep lost by others supporting and worrying about us while we are in the field. How do we track and total the strain that unpredictable callouts or “one more” meeting puts on relationships?

The contribution of that wider circle to the community needs to be held up just as high as the recognition the field team gets. Each of us has multiple “thank-yous” to express. After you have taken care of your personal debts, join me in trying to find some ways for Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit to acknowledge the sacrifice and support of these folks. **In truth, we could not do it without all this help.**

## **COMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Search and Rescue uses perishable skills that dull if not honed by missions or training. IMSARU maintains a full schedule of training. To keep bringing in new ideas and the latest in techniques, many of us go to additional conferences and trainings. For those of you who plan ahead, here are some opportunities in our region.

**March 8-9 The Idaho State Search and Rescue Association Spring meeting** in Orofino, Idaho, There is a full schedule of training in addition to the business meeting.

**May 16-18 is the Washington State SAR Conference.** Over a thousand SAR volunteer professionals from the northwest attend this event each year. You will be frustrated by the large extent of excellent topics and training packed into these few days. There are also pre-conference courses that will tempt you to take even more time off from work.

**May 29-31 National Association for Search and Rescue Conference** in Colorado Springs, Colorado. As a unit member of NASAR, our members get a preferred rate for the conference.

**May 30-31 & June 1 Water K-9 Seminar.** IMSARU will be bringing Jonni Joyce to instruct a three-day seminar in McCall. Enrollment is limited to 15 K-9s but there is room for more observers.

**June 19-21 the Mountain Rescue Association Spring meeting.** While Stowe, Vermont is not in the northwest, we would hope some from the unit will plan to attend. The spring meeting is short on business and long on training.

Continued next issue.

## **PROJECT VOLUNTEERS**

Thanks to the members who have signed up for projects that need to be done:

Recycle cans and plastic – Mike Mancuso  
Mow grass in season – Jimmie Yorgensen  
Weed patrol in season – Jimmie Yorgensen  
Snow removal in season – Carl Kidwell  
Clean bathroom at least once a month – Eric Campbell  
Fix sprinkler system – Lee Pierce  
Wash & wax trucks periodically – David Gomez  
Chair a fundraising committee – Collin Garner and Lynde Christensen  
Work on long-range planning committee – Kevin Nehila  
Learn how to run maps & do so for missions – Kevin Nehila  
Mentor program for new members – Lori Thompson  
Retention officer – Lee Pierce  
Teach basic GPS class – David Gomez

For those who haven't yet made the commitment, the blue list is still on the bulletin board at the back of the meeting room. You are not limited to the suggestions on that list. Look around, see what needs to be done, and make that your project.

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Many of us are so accustomed to our digital pager messages that some were puzzled by a recent pager readout of “**342-0809\*3333**” If the person setting off the pagers is not at a computer with the appropriate software, it is not possible to send a text message. The 342-0809 is the Compound number you need to call. If it is followed by 3's, you need to listen to Mailbox 3 for information about a mission. If it is followed by 0's, the mission has been cancelled.

## **THE END OF THE STORY --CHARLOTTE GUNN**

Among the hardest things in search and rescue are the times when you do your very best with the information and resources available but you just can't find the missing person. You keep wondering what really happened until you finally hear the end of the story...if you ever do.

Those of you who have long memories might remember that in October of 2002, a young hunter became separated from his two companions above Twin Springs, in very bad weather. Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, together with Boise County Sheriff's officers, family, friends, spontaneous volunteers and Idaho National Guard helicopter crews, searched for four days in steep, brushy and largely snow-covered terrain, but were unable to locate the missing man. It was five years later, this past October, when an elk hunter stumbled over human remains which were eventually identified as the missing Russell Reed, beyond the boundaries of our search area.

It would be easy to say “If only we had extended the area....” But anyone familiar with that terrain knows that is only hindsight. With limited resources, unlimited space and uncooperative weather, you can’t just keep going forever. It was heartbreaking for the searchers to have to give up, and we can’t even imagine what the intervening five years have been for family and close friends. There is some relief in finally hearing the end of the story, but it’s a tragic end.

P.S.: When the hunter reported his find last October, it was necessary to take county and state investigators to the site. Boise County had no funds to charter a helicopter, so Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit did so. And no, the state SAR fund does not reimburse us for expenses of a body recovery. We just did it because it needed to be done.

Many readers will have noticed in recent newsletters that we have received multiple donations in memory of Russell Reed. We are grateful to the Reed family for their generosity in designating us as recipients of such memorials.

### SEARCH DOGS AND HANDLERS TRAIN OFTEN

Our K9 group has recently trained at the old Kuna Dump, off South Cole Road, in the desert behind Micron, at Bonneville Point.... We especially thank the members and friends who have joined us as subjects for the training searches in unfriendly weather.



—Photos by J. Ferguson

We are always looking for more volunteers, so the dogs won’t find the same people frequently. Please talk to any of the dog handlers if you are available and willing to be a subject.



We also need additional training areas. Ideal is private property, but we’d also like to hear about public land with several acres of space and not too heavily used.

**IDAHO MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT  
2519 FEDERAL WAY  
BOISE, IDAHO 83705**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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—Photo on T. Kearney's camera; photographer unknown.