

WEB EDITION

RESCUE

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Missing from Tie Creek C.G. p. 1**
- Suicide in Foothills -p. 5**
- Mock Mission Training -p. 2**
- JHPTS Tracking Class -p. 11**

FOUNDING MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



**MISSING FROM TIE CREEK CAMPGROUND – AUGUST 26, 2008
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

The call came a bit before 9 p.m. on Monday: A 20-year-old man had been camping with his family at Tie Creek Campground, on the Middle Fork of the Payette above Crouch. Late Sunday afternoon, he said he was going to walk to a hot spring “about five miles up the road.” He reportedly carried a shoulder bag containing a flashlight, a Family Service radio and a bottle of whiskey; he was wearing shorts and Van “skater shoes” but no shirt. (Tie Creek - Cont. on page 4)



Our subject jokes with searchers after a successful mission.

Photo By G. Gunn

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

MOCK MISSION TRAINING – SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2008 -- CHRIS HARRY

After several weeks of preparation, I left the Station Creek trailhead about noon on Saturday. The unit had instructions to meet at the Compound at 6:00 P.M. that evening where the scenario was waiting for them on the front whiteboard. They were to initiate a search for a missing/overdue hiker in the Bald Mountain area. They knew that my vehicle was at the trail head and that I was supposed to hike to “Little Baldy” and back because I had plans in Boise later in the afternoon. When I didn’t show up, a friend called the authorities. He related that I had mentioned some interest in a spring in the area that someone had told me about. The unit arrived at the scene about 8:00 P.M. and set up base camp at the Garden Valley Heli-tack Base.



Lori returns from a run as air observer.

—Photo provided by C. Harry

The hasty search consisted of a trailing dog team and a mantracking team (teams 1 & 2) starting from the LKP (my vehicle). Making use of scent articles I was nice enough to leave for the handlers, Midge quickly picked up my 8-9 hour-old track and shot up the trail after me. The mantrackers established my print and leapfrogged with the K-9 team. Both were on track and making good time. In the meantime, a vehicle team (team 3) with an air-scent dog was going around the north side of Bald Mountain via Little Anderson Creek road. Two additional teams (4, with another air-scent dog, & 5), began working up the Danskin Creek drainage to the south-east of Bald Mountain. All of the teams returned to Base Camp around 1:00 A.M., except for team 5 who chose to bivouac in the field before returning to Base after first light.

Sunday morning brought about the second phase of the operation, aircraft ops. Danny Cone flew in the previous afternoon to be available to rotate everybody through on Sunday as flight observers. The first round was airborne about 9:00 a.m., taking two observers at a time for about 30–45 minutes each. The focus was to give those who had not been flight observers before the opportunity to see what it takes. They discovered very quickly how difficult it is

looking for a person amongst thousands of big trees. A little before noon, I broke out the orange tarp and signal mirror and let them find me. Danny and the observers were most impressed with the effectiveness of the signal mirror. Danny described it as “a thousand flash bulbs all going off simultaneously”!

Upon locating me, the unit switched very quickly from search mode to rescue mode. Within minutes teams were on their way up Little Anderson Creek road, as the maps suggested that would be the best access. Rick Thompson drove his truck into my location at about 1:00 p.m., saving the team from having to do a litter carry-out. (I had stated that I would not walk out under my own power.) Once everyone had returned to Base Camp we debriefed, packed up, and headed home. We were all back in Boise by 5:00 p.m

So what did I actually do? I hiked to Little Baldy, then to the top of Bald Mountain. From there I knew I would head in the general direction of Basque Spring which is what I was talking about in the scenario, though I intentionally omitted its name hoping they would figure it out, and they did. From the top of Bald Mountain I could see a trail carved into the side of the next ridge to the East. Identifying it on my map, I took a bearing and headed off. Upon arriving at my destination, which was the intersection of Little Anderson Creek road and the trail coming out of the Danskin Creek drainage, I decided that was the area where I would be found. I spent a couple of hours wandering down the road and back up, then down the intersecting trail and back to my bivouac spot.

Keep in mind that since I had an 8-hour head start, I was already setting up my bivouac (complete with cozy campfire) as the teams were just beginning their search around 9:00 p.m. I also chose that location because it would allow me to hear everybody’s radio communications, even when they couldn’t hear each other. I spent the rest of the night and the next morning eavesdropping, plotting all of the teams on my maps as they reported location and status to Base Camp, noting how and what they were doing, etc.

Overall I was very impressed with the group’s work; the search plans were thorough and well executed. Had this been an actual search, the teams would have continued Saturday night instead of returning to Base Camp. If they had, they would have found me within a couple of hours. Considering the fact that I was sitting at the intersection where teams 3, 4 & 5 would have met, they couldn’t have missed my campfire. Had teams 1 & 2 made it to the top of Bald Mountain (which I’m confident they would have the way they were tracking) they would have seen my campfire. An excellent job was done by all!!!

Lessons Learned...

BE TRACK AWARE: Team 3 drove directly over my tracks where I had walked down and back up the same road they were driving on. Had they stopped every hundred yards or so and cut for sign they would have nailed me.

BE CLUE AWARE: I intentionally left several clues in my car, in plain view. Almost all of them were missed! A subject’s vehicle will often yield valuable clues.

NOT ALL ASSIGNMENTS MAKE SENSE: Sometimes field teams get assignments that don't make sense. Keep in mind that Base Camp is compiling info that you haven't heard, they're looking at maps which you don't have, etc. Therefore, they base plans on things that you're not aware of.

YOU ARE BASE CAMP'S EYES: In this instance, the flight observers didn't relay that I was sitting in the middle of the road. During the attempt to reach me, some members ended up on a dead-end road and were trying to hike through some very nasty stuff to get to me. They didn't realize at first that they could drive all the way to me.

TAP LOCAL RESOURCES: Locals often know things about the search area--where trails are, which roads are open and closed, etc. In this case the staff at the heli-tack base were able to provide some useful information.

Members who participated: Chris Harry (subject), Carl Kidwell (O.L. for the first phase), Rick Thompson, Lori Thompson, Mike Johnson, William Miller, Tom Wheless, Kyle Hoppe, Eric Campbell, Ann Moser with Watson, Kim Juda with Kiwi, Andrew Parrish, John Ferguson, Tom Kearney with Midge (O.L. for the second phase), Danny Cone (pilot).

Special thanks to Danny Cone for his willingness to use his airplane to rotate people as flight observers and to the Garden Valley heli-tack base personnel for all of their assistance.

(Tie Creek - Cont. from page 1)

The young man did not contact the family on the FRS radio as planned nor did he return to their campsite. After 24 hours, the family called the Boise County Sheriff.

We paged for a 4:30 a.m. response, figuring to arrive on site by daylight. Jerry and Carl, hearing that the family had left the campsite and returned home to the valley, volunteered to go on up to be present in case the subject returned during the night. Carl used some of those night hours to search for tracks and found some that matched the description. When the rest of our team arrived, we used Winston's knowledge of hot springs in the area to set up our search field, starting from the campground and heading upriver toward the subject's reported destination. Wade used his ATV; vehicle and foot teams searched for tracks and the person; one canine team searched the area around the hot spring and another canine team took the riverbank. (The combination of hot spring, whiskey, steep river bank beside the road and darkness made us a bit nervous.)

At about 11 a.m., a Forest Service official, headed back to Crouch from the campsite, encountered a young man matching the description, and brought him back up to base camp. His explanation was that he had gone into Crouch, played poker a couple of nights, and was now walking back up to the campground to see if his family was still there.

IMSARU members responding included Winston Cheyney with Skadi, John Ferguson, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, George Gunn, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Wade Kimball on his ATV, Vicki Moss, Jerry Newland (O.L.), Lee Pierce, Tom Wheless, Everett Wood, Avery Wynings. Chris Harry was in-town coordinator.

Note: If you want to learn how to catch some sleep while waiting, talk to Lee.

SEARCH IN FOOTHILLS - OCTOBER 1-2, 2008

--CHARLOTTE GUNN

Our pagers went off shortly after 9 p.m. The Boise Police Department asked for our help in searching for a woman missing in the foothills off Warm Springs Avenue, near the Harris Ranch development. A “50-ish” woman had called 911 to tell them she had taken an overdose of prescription pills; her account of her location was vague but included that she had crossed two gates and could still see city lights. Boise P.D. was able to narrow her location by “pinging” her cellphone—which she stopped answering—and they eventually located her car parked on the street of a mobile home area.

We responded on an urgent basis with 20 of our people and received the above information (media accounts later gave her age as 46), plus height of 5’7”, weight of 225, and several medical problems...and that she was presumed to be unconscious by now. One report said the missing lady had a small dog with her (could be a plus, as dogs often respond to people in the area) but this apparently was inaccurate. Already on scene were 25-30 personnel from Boise City P.D., Boise City F.D., Ada County S.O. and Ada County Paramedics. Searchlights lit up some of the hillsides and a Life Flight helicopter was on its way for aerial search with a spotlight.

George was welcomed as O.L. and Chris scurried to do as many of the other base camp tasks as one person could possibly handle. We sent out three K9 teams, two of which included a fireman with a heat-sensing device, two mantracking teams and two additional foot teams, plus two firemen to check the flats at the base of the foothills. Boise P.D. continued their investigation, instituting a reverse 911, asking residents of the area to check for the missing person, and checking her home.

Anyone who has done a night search in steep terrain knows how frustrating and inefficient it is. If the subject of the search is unresponsive, searchers can pass very close without knowing it. The dogs are more efficient, both because they range farther and because they have that sense of smell, but what little breeze we had was too erratic to be very helpful. And the heat-sensing devices were stymied by the fact that rocks and vegetation had not yet cooled so that there was too much interference to see clearly. Oh yes, I should mention that the “two gates” criterion, even if accurate, could be met in several directions that each in turn opened up large areas from which city lights were visible.

It was close to 4:15 a.m. when our last teams were out of the field and plans laid for resuming the search at 7:30 a.m. Since the majority of our members have to work for a living, we were pleased to have eleven of them show up at the Compound at 7:00. Tim was O.L. for this section of the search; he assigned an ATV team, a mantracking team, a K9 team and two other foot teams. When an Ada County deputy arrived with a dirt bike, he went around to a private road off of Warm Springs, through the private gates and up to where he found the woman’s body. She had presumably walked cross-country, as access via that private road was a long distance from where her car was parked, and she had gone farther and higher than one would expect from the starting information. Media reports quoted the coroner as saying there were no signs of foul play and ruling the death a suicide.

IMSARU members who participated in both parts of the search included Charlotte Gunn with Xena, George Gunn (O.L. for Part 1), Tim Henning (O.L. for Part 2), Kim Juda with Kiwi, Carl Kidwell, Wade Kimball with ATV, Josh Nichols, Lee Pierce. Those who participated in one part included Ann Finley, Collin Garner, David Gomez with motorcycle, Chris Harry, Linda Kearney, Tom Kearney with Breeze and Midge, Mike Mancuso, Owen Miller, Phil Sander, Dan Scovel, Colin Sesek, Lori Thompson, Rick Thompson, Tom Wheless, Everett Wood with ATV, Avery Wynings.

K9 URBAN TRACKING SEMINAR – AUGUST 2-3, 2008 --TOM KEARNEY

Andy Rebmann and Marcia Koenig hosted the seminar in Kent, Washington, and I took my 4-year-old GSD Midge to learn the fine art of urban tracking. We met at their house on Saturday morning and, after a short informative lecture, proceeded to a local park. There were many teams from all over the western U.S. Some of the dogs were experienced but several, like Midge, had done little if any urban trailing. A helper laid a track that went through a well-used wooded park and we took turns running our dogs on it. Midge did OK, but was a bit put off by the wooden stairs she had to go down. She actually slowed down on them (thankfully). Andy or Marcia went with each team to assist and make suggestions.

On Sunday morning we worked a trail that had been laid the night before...on a college campus. Sometime after the track was laid, there was a large party on the campus; lots of people had “contaminated” it. It also rained that evening, which can make working a trail even more difficult.

We were one of the first teams to work this trail. We had two subjects and the dog not only had to successfully trail, but to pick out the right subject at the end. Squeaking fearless squirrels, and several up-ended trash cans with food and wrappers scattered around, were just some of the obstacles. Midge did well but was still reluctant to go down some stairs, although she plainly indicated that was where the track went. With some coaxing she bounded down them, with me struggling to keep up. By the time we reached the last set of stairs, she wasn't hesitating at all. (So much for slowing her down!) After she located “her” subject, we continued the training in the parking lot with a simulated “car pickup.” Track was laid and ended where the subject got into a car and left the area. The goal was to have the dog indicate that the subject's trail ended. All of the dogs did well.

We finished with a few line-ups: Three people stood 10-15 feet apart; the dog had a scent article from one of them; the dog had to select the proper person. After a few tries, all the dogs were selecting the correct subject.

It was a very busy and informative weekend. I look forward to more seminars like this one to improve our skills.

CALENDAR

Oct. 14	SAR Training – Base Camp Operations – Chris Harry	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 18	SAR Field Training – Base Camp Operations	Time & Place TBA
Oct. 19	K9 Training – Contact Kim Juda at 395-1054	
Oct. 21	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 24 or 25	Tracking Training – Contact Lori Thompson at 389-1166	
Nov. 1	K9 Training – Contact Ann Moser at 658-2273	
Nov. 4	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 9	Tracking Training – Contact George or Charlotte Gunn at 378-7787	
Nov. 11	SAR Training – GPS Navigation – David Gomez	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 15-16	SAR Field Training – GPS Navigation	Time & Place TBA
Nov. 16	K9 Training if time permits – Contact Tom Kearney at 321-1175	
Nov. 18	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 22	Tracking Training – Contact Linda Kearney at 321-1175	
Nov. 25	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 28	Begin Gift Wrapping at Cabela's	
Nov. 29	K9 Training – Contact Charlotte Gunn at 378-7787	
Dec. 2	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 6	IMSARU Christmas Party at the Lindenaus' (Information and directions in this issue.)	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	K9 Handlers Meet SAR Training – Clothing & Equipment (No SAR Field Training this month)	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	K9 Training – Contact Ann Finley at 336-1485	
Dec. 16	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
DEC. 23 AND 30 – NO MEETINGS – ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS!		
Jan. 6	Business Meeting (catching up from December)	7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING...SOON

GIFT-WRAPPING PROJECT

Again this year, we will be wrapping gifts at Cabela's during the Christmas season. We start on "Black Friday" (the day after Thanksgiving) and finish on Christmas Eve. Rather than charge for the service, we ask for a donation to IMSARU, and it has been a good fund-raiser. We have already started making bows, under the artistic leadership of Rose Wood, and need lots of help to have these ready; we started last year with about 2,000 handmade bows and ran out. You don't need artistic talent to make bows nor to wrap gifts, so please give as much help as you can. Rick Thompson is coordinating the project; bow-making parties will be announced; scheduling of workers will start soon. As with the Corn Booth, we welcome friends, relatives including teenage children, and co-workers to this project.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 6

Bill and Marty Lindenau will again host our Christmas party, at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 6. It will be a potluck dinner—bring food to share but table service will be supplied. This is a time to enjoy each other's company, to reminisce about the past year and tell stories about events even longer ago, to let your spouse meet some of those people who share your passion for SAR. We will present both humorous and serious awards for the year. The humorous awards commemorate moments that an individual might prefer to forget but that are entertaining now that they are in the past. Give Diane Mathews or Charlotte Gunn your suggestions for these; they promise not to reveal who told. The serious awards also need your suggestions, and we need these soon. It takes time for the committee to make decisions, choose the awards, get them engraved, etc. There will be forms for these suggestions at unit meetings, or you can just write them on a scrap of paper.

To find the Lindenaus' home, here are directions that have worked for the past two years:

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 and will have beautiful Christmas decorations everywhere. The address is 1407 S. Cotterell Way.

IMSARU OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2009

At the general meeting on October 7, 2008, our members elected the following officers for 2009. As stated in our by-laws, they will take office on December 1. Thanks to Tom Kearney and Rick Thompson for serving as the nominations committee, and to all the members who were willing to run for office. Also, a reminder to everyone else: It is the officers' job to see that things get done, **NOT** to do all the work themselves. Membership in an all-volunteer group means more than just wearing the orange shirt and showing up for the exciting things, so offer your services and/or accept tasks when asked.

The majority of the 2009 officers will be the same as in 2008. An asterisk indicates a change.

Coordinator – Rod Knopp
President – Jerry Newland
Vice-President – Carl Kidwell
Treasurer – Phil O'Bryan
Secretary – Josh Nichols *
Training Director – Owen Miller

Medical Director – Collin Garner
Logistical Director – Chris Harry *
Facilities Director – Mike Mancuso *
Public Relations Director – Rick Thompson
Technical Director – Bob Meredith

**NAPWDA WORKSHOP AND CERTIFICATION TESTING
AUGUST 3-8, 2008
--KIM JUDA AND ANN MOSER**

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. We remember that line from somewhere! OK, it wasn't the worst of times but as relatively new SAR K9 handlers, going to the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) workshop and certification testing was a new, stressful and fun experience. Ann Moser with K9 Watson and Kim Juda with K9 Kiwi traveled to the workshop in Billings, Montana. Kim had signed up to participate in the Cadaver workshop and made plans to attempt the SAR Area Search trials. The criteria were tough but she wanted to put Kiwi and herself to the test and see how they fared against the tough NAPWDA Area Search standards. The IMSARU K9 team agreed to accept this testing to determine whether Kiwi and Kim would become an operational team for the unit. Wow! No pressure! Ann and Watson were testing in Cadaver, a discipline for which our unit has no internal certification.

After a long (ten-hour) drive, we settled into the hotel in Billings and attended the opening session of the conference. Monday morning, we were on! The SAR Area Search handlers completed the Land Navigation testing and then it was on to the dogs. First was a rigorous off-lead obedience trial. Kim and Kiwi had been hard at work learning new tricks, but Kim was surprised to learn that there was a set of commands they hadn't trained for. They completed all of the criteria except one, and were expected to re-test a day or two later. Then came the on-lead sociability testing. If you've ever owned or known a golden retriever, you know how difficult it is to weave figure 8's in and out of a crowd of people. Despite all the temptations, Kiwi did a wonderful job and they were ready to move on to the actual area search trials. Ann and Watson, the obedience pros, aced their tests on the first attempt. On Monday afternoon Kim and Kiwi participated in some of the cadaver work in rubble piles, then ended the afternoon with a small area search for a warm-up. Meanwhile, Ann and Watson passed their first two cadaver tests—rubble piles and an area search. Over the course of three days, the cadaver teams would test in six scenarios with twelve "finds" and only one miss allowed. We returned to the hotel for a quick dinner, then Kim and Kiwi practiced obedience in the parking lot—to learn those new tricks.

Tuesday was an early start—up at 6:00 to feed and walk the dogs, then out to the testing areas at 8:00. There were six handlers continuing in the SAR Area Search, and six testing in Cadaver. It was a lot of activity for dogs and people! As Kim and Kiwi set up for their first area search test, (they had to pass two, with the criteria of areas of 10-140 acres, 0-2 subjects in each area, and a grand total of 2 hours to clear both areas), Kim noticed that Kiwi just wasn't herself. The stress was affecting her, as well as an unknown paw injury that was causing a very slight limp. They still had such a long way to go! But she was a trooper; treats, toys and a desire to please meant they were able to continue with the grueling schedule. The first test area was a 20-acre wooded and scrub steep hillside. It took 18 minutes, but they tracked down the single subject and had a good "find". They were half-way there.

By Tuesday afternoon, the summer heat was returning to Billings. Kim was hoping that their next area search trial would start early but it wasn't to be. Having volunteered to be the first team, Kiwi and Kim headed out to the search area at around 2 p.m. and the day was hot and dry...not the optimal conditions to be working a K9. However, after stocking up on water, they arrived at the search area, a 120-acre basin with 5 distinct steep hillsides. After the report that people in a car driving by

thought they heard someone shouting for help, they deployed. They headed into the basin with the hot wind at their backs, and one hour and forty minutes to clear the area. After an hour of hot searching, flushing a herd of deer, and a rest and water break, they found their subject and were called back in to base. Kim was devastated to learn that they'd missed a subject on a side of the basin she'd called "clear". The master trainer determined that the subject was not in the actual defined search area (imagine--a subject who doesn't stay "in bounds") and they learned they'd have an opportunity to finish the testing the next day. The next dog also missed subject one, and the day's testing was over. For Kim and Kiwi it was back to more obedience training in the hotel parking lot. Tuesday was exhausting, and there was still more to come.

Tuesday was a stressful day for Ann and Watson, too. They started the day on burials, which had been left out overnight. Ann and Watson were the first team into the search area...where a deer had decided to bed down for the day. Watson found one of the burials, then couldn't find the other after the deer flushed out from under his nose. Oh no, that was their one allowed miss! Now the pressure was really on. However, they successfully made it through the rest of the day, with clean finds in the shoreline search scenario.

On Wednesday morning, the remaining Area Search teams worked their final trials. The trainers met and decided that only the one subject that had been found to date would be placed, and cut the search area in half. The two K9 teams that had worked on Tuesday afternoon learned that they had "passed" even though a subject was missed, because he wasn't in bounds. Kim wasn't sure how she felt about that; she wanted things to have been cleaner. She watched the remaining dogs work the search area; even with only half the terrain, a couple of the teams had some difficulty finding the subject. The trials were officially over for the Area Search testing, and now it was time for some fun. Oh, except for those darned obedience trials....

Back at the cadaver trials in town, Ann and Watson successfully completed the cars and building searches in a do-or-die finale and achieved the NAPWDA certification!

After dinner on Wednesday was a night area search exercise. We returned to the testing areas and several of the cadaver teams also participated. After a fun steep hillside in the fading daylight hours, we headed across to the farm fields for the next steps in full dark—two moving subjects, two dog teams, and go! It was fun to watch the K9s with their night lights running across the field in search of the subjects. After a brief interruption by a porcupine and a bloodthirsty Montana Ranch youth looking for a kill, the night searches completed. We are happy to report that Kim and Kiwi also completed the remaining off-lead obedience trials and had officially met all of their testing criteria. Wow!

Thursday was a day for play: We practiced cadaver work in the morning and had an afternoon off before the conference closing session. Then, after a stop at the Patagonia Outlet Store, dodging several thunderstorms, reporting a roadside wildfire and surviving strong winds and downdrafts near Glens Ferry, we finally made it home late Friday afternoon. It was a very full week on the shores on the Yellowstone River—stressful, exciting and exhausting—and Kim is looking forward to returning next summer to renew the SAR Area certification and attempt the Cadaver trials. We are so proud of our K9 teams: Watson and Ann certified in Cadaver; Kiwi and Kim certified in SAR Area Search. It was a week to remember!

**JHPTS TRACKING CLASS IN MCCALL – SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2008
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

The weather was too gorgeous to believe (unlike most actual missions), the food and lodging at Pilgrim Cove Camp were comfortable, and the tracking was a real learning opportunity. Twenty-eight students and four instructors—Joel Hardin, Marv Pillers, Pres Funkhauser and Annie Pillers—used the time well.

Friday morning was classroom time. Friday afternoon was into the field. Novice students worked in teams of three to identify and follow lines of sign that led through the woods, over the slope and down to the road...and then across the road and into the woods, disappointing some teams who assumed they had finished the problem at the road. Basic, Apprentice and Journeyman students were assigned either to work with the Novice teams or to “go down that dirt road, pick a line of sign and follow it.” This was my first class above the Novice level, and it was very challenging, very enjoyable and very frustrating. My team did pick a line of sign on that road; it doubled back and headed off into the woods, but the exit point was not easy to identify (too many possibilities where someone/something had traveled). The full moon was cheerful for the night tracking, but we needed more help than that.

On Saturday, the Novices continued their sign lines while two pairs of the more advanced students started deciphering the scenario that had been given on Friday. You can imagine that a line of sign which starts on a well-used gravel parking lot is not easy to follow. The rest of us no-longer-novices were soon called to assist and, as you would guess, the two lines of sign became intermingled. I can't begin to list the challenges that were new to me: following sign where you get only bits and pieces of the footprint (and those only after tracking through the gravel for a while), watching for the sign which the other team is following as well as for your own, following a twisting and turning line through a camp thoroughly tramped by a summer's attendees, and many more. We were indeed thankful that Joel had worn footwear with those few triangles centered by dots when he laid the trail, as seeing one such triangle soon became a major cause for celebration.

The IMSARU Mantracking Team has recently agreed to work regular group problems as well as individually attending tracking classes when we can. I look forward to improving my basic skills with the help of our own members...as soon as I finish the remaining challenge from Joel's class (writing the #@&%*! report which is required of all students above the Novice level).

Many thanks to Don Green of Valley County SAR and to Kris and Dan Scovel of IMSARU for arranging this class. We especially regret that Kris and Dan were unable to participate, due to a family emergency. IMSARU students were Lori Thompson, Carl Kidwell, Linda Kearney, George Gunn, Charlotte Gunn and Ann Finley. And the mission calls on Friday night got cancelled quickly, so we didn't have to decide whether to respond to them.

**ONE MORE CORN BOOTH— AUGUST 15-24, 2008
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

We survived another one. Everything was the same (delicious corn supplied by Volcanic Farms, lots of people working more than their share to help earn a huge portion of our annual budget, slow times for leisurely husking and rush times when there weren't enough hands) and everything was different (which shifts were slow or busy, for example). Special moments included a power outage one evening, a cash register determined to drive us insane, old friends who put in their annual appearance to help out with this one major activity, a brand-new water heater that was extremely quirky until Chris figured out the water-flow problem, a spectacular windstorm while we were taking down the booth on Monday evening. (Fortunately, we had the tents down and the roof cover off before the front swept through.) We ordered 14,900 ears of corn during the Fair, and sold most of that.

Everett Wood, Rose Wood, Dan Iverson and Jean Iverson again worked the day shift on all the weekdays; Susan Read worked five straight days, and Jimmie Yorgensen worked a swing shift on those same five days. The Boise Corporation supplied night shifts for Friday and Saturday of the final weekend, and we sincerely thank them for again volunteering...especially the Saturday night crew who knew from experience that our work isn't over when the booth closes and they stayed to do all the cleanup. Behind-the-scenes workers included Diane Mathews, who did all the scheduling, Kris Scovel, who bought and delivered supplies, and Chris Harry, who arranged the transportation, setup and takedown of the booth.

My rough tally sheet shows that the following members each worked three or more shifts (with setup and takedown each counting as a shift): Brad Acker (6), Casey Calico, John Ferguson, Ann Finley (6), Charlotte Gunn, Chris Harry (9), Tim Henning, Mike Johnson, Kim Juda (4), Tom Kearney (5), Carl Kidwell (4), Wade Kimball, Mac Mackintosh, Mike Mancuso, Ann Moser, Jeff Munn, Phil Sander (5), Dan Scovel, Kris Scovel (4), Rick Thompson (4), Tom Wheless (5), Everett Wood (8), Avery Wynings and Jimmie Yorgensen (7).

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, Inc. would like to express our appreciation for donations received from the following:

In memory of Terry Read (a long-time friend and worker for IMSARU)

A donation from Larry and Teresa Walters

In memory of Betty Crocker (Linda Kearney's mother)

Donations from Ann Finley, Carl Kidwell, George and Charlotte Gunn

Jay Washburn, owner of Dixon Container in Garden City, for donating boxes to be used in our Christmas gift-wrapping fundraiser.

Donors to the **United Way of Treasure Valley** who designated donations to IMSARU and whose gifts are distributed throughout the year.

TRAINING IS A CRITICAL ACTIVITY

In addition to the Mock Mission report included in this issue, the K9 Urban Tracking Seminar article and the report of two K9 handlers who did extensive training and testing in Montana for certification, we would like to call your attention to the following:

Training Director Owen Miller has met over the past few weeks with the Training Committee of Bob Meredith, Dan Scovel and Charlotte Gunn. A proposed calendar of training sessions for the next two years is ready for official discussion and approval by the Board of Directors. The committee will continue to meet and review goals and objectives for each of the training topics. The recommendations at this point include continuing the tradition of SAR classroom training on the second Tuesday of each month, with field training on the same topic the following weekend. Exceptions are made in August (the Corn Booth occupies our time and energy) and December; the Race to Robie Creek in April may also require changes. There are also classroom topics that are appropriate for the first Tuesday, schedule permitting, and the committee recommends one to three mock missions each year to combine skills already taught and practiced.



Many thanks to the divers who waited in that cold water for the dogs to find them!

—Photo by C. Harry

The K9 team continues to schedule group training every other weekend, plus informal sessions whenever two or three handlers can coordinate schedules. We especially thank Winston Cheyney and Kim Juda for setting up the water training at Lucky Peak Reservoir on September 21. Kim recruited volunteer divers, Rod Knopp brought his boat up and drove it all day to ferry divers and dog teams to the problems, Winston supplied lunch for all, Chris Harry handled diver lines, and four K9 handlers and their dogs greatly appreciated the chance to work on this skill. The K9 team is always looking for volunteer subjects for their training, and for different physical locations.

The mantrackers, following a pause after our class in McCall and some personal business, are again scheduling training sessions for every other weekend. All members are invited to join these training events, whether or not they are officially-designated trackers.

Schedules for the unit trainings, K9 teams' and mantrackers' events are listed on the calendar in this issue. Call any of the contact people listed there or talk to them at Tuesday meetings.



TRACKERS

Here is a view of the subject's shoe from the Tie Creek mission (page 1). Our team was able to identify this print and confirm the direction from the campground. Good work guys and gals.. Photo by G. Gunn



Recent additions to our K9 team: Kim Juda with her golden retriever Kiwi (wilderness air-scent) and Ann Moser with her giant schnauzer Watson (cadaver). See article on Page 9.

—Photo by C. Gunn