

**WEB
EDITION**

RESCUE

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

FOUNDING MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



**MISSING MUSHROOM HUNTER NEAR OLA, JULY 6-7, 2010
-REBECCA SHAVER**

7:15 a.m.; pager is going off. I procrastinate but realize within about two minutes that it will drive me nuts if I don't go. My son gets up and helps me get out the door. Is there time for a coffee stop? Since I'm about to get on the freeway just before 8' a.m. on a weekday, I stop anyway.



Base Camp near Ola Summit

--Photo by R. Shaver

As usual, the weekday crew is slim since many can't get away from their day jobs...but it's a quality crew. We get a quick briefing, then load up the gear and head out to the Gem County Sheriff's Office to get more details before continuing to Base Camp. The subject is a man in his late 30's who got out of his car the evening before up near Ola Summit to search for mushrooms while his wife napped; he never returned.

Base Camp has already been set up by Gem County. We just need to grab our gear and we're ready, and the search leader wastes no time in getting us going. Carl, Gregg and I become Team 3 and head out to search our assigned area. It is beautiful country, but the vegetation is

extremely thick after the long, wet spring. We see black bear and cub tracks, wildflowers, and brush so thick it will trip you and give you a mean Charlie horse (trust me), but no sign of the subject. After sweeping the area, we return to Base Camp. The two dog teams trickle into camp as well, and report no better luck.



Planning and debriefing sessions at Base Camp

After we have rested, Judd (with K9 Zora), Wade, Gregg and I are asked to hike along a drainage that eventually spits out onto a main road. We catch a ride to where the drainage begins. Wade and Judd take the far side with Zora. Gregg and I end up on the sunny side. It's hot, but better for us than it would be for Zora to work in; fur coats aren't meant for hot days. Still, Wade will forever get grief as the team

leader for picking the shadier side of the draw. It gets steep fast, and Gregg and I traverse up and down the hillside to get around thick brush patches, bushwhacking when we can't go around. I make a mental note to consider adding a machete to my 24-hour pack. We keep an eye on the other team to ensure we stay roughly parallel. It isn't long before we lose radio contact with Base. Eventually, we pick up radio contact with members of the ATV club that have come to help. They insist they are there to pick us up. Gregg and I manage to cross the creek without falling in, and we rejoin Wade and Judd. Zora finds us a nice trail up and around one last



Thick vegetation in search area

—Photo by R. Shaver

brushy area. At last we come out on a hill above where the ATVers are waiting. The ride out is long, even on four-wheelers. I don't think we would have made it all the way through the drainage on foot before dark. My driver tells me they saw a black bear run down into the drainage ahead of where we were picked up. Yep, glad to be heading back.

Back at Base, Gem County has brought the fixings for chicken strip sandwiches. The chicken is lukewarm, a bit soggy, and absolutely wonderful. A tracking team is out following a potential line of sign, and Charlotte, Mac and I hitch a ride with the Sheriff to go meet them. We catch up to the team and join them in tracking, but the sign is becoming elusive. The tracks had been following the power lines up to the summit, at which point they may have continued down the line or dropped over to the road. A decision is made to do a fast search along the power lines before darkness really sets in. The Sheriff tells us he wants to keep an eye out because there has been a multimillion-dollar marijuana bust in the vicinity, involving a Mexican cartel. We really appreciate having him there! Eventually all of the team is picked up. It is dark now and several searchers still have to drive back to Boise so they can go to work in the morning.

Day Two. Those of us who stayed overnight are up bright and early. We scrounge breakfast out of our packs and bum hot water from the Gunn RV. George has assignments ready and dispatches us into the field before the local crew arrives. Linda, Charlotte and I head out in my pickup to cut for sign along the areas where the power lines cross the road. Ann and Gregg accompany us to the first stop so that Watson can sniff out the area where we last knew we had tracks that might be our guy. The trackers find cow tracks, searcher sign, cow tracks, and even a hanging TV set. Even Charlotte is about ready to eat steak by this time. Neither team finds any good sign.

More "jail sandwiches" arrive and we gladly eat them. It is definitely hotter today.

Word arrives that a Blackhawk is en route to assist in the search. We hear they will have room for one of us to go as a spotter and George asks me to go since I have had the widest experience of those in camp. Danny tells me I need to write down my name, social security number and all my information, so I get a piece of paper and put down name, SS#, address and phone number. When I hand it to the lady collecting the data, she laughs. Apparently "all my information" really meant only name and social security number. At least I didn't write my height and weight too. Phil and Brian are able to go as well.

The pilot meets us in Base Camp and gives us a quick safety rundown on approaching the helo, getting the harness on and avoiding a new haircut in the event the chopper goes down. We all hop into a pickup to ride to the LZ. Just as we begin to pull away, Nate runs up and throws in a package of ear plugs. THANK YOU!! They get us into the helicopter and help us harness in. They fool with the door a bit and then the crew member on my side tells me that if it starts to close in flight I should push it back open. I hear George's voice in my head, telling us that the number one cause of fatalities for search-and-rescue personnel is helicopters. I tighten the harness a little more. At last everyone is ready and we lift off. We cover about 66 miles in the Blackhawk, according to the GPS. It's a neat (albeit cold) experience, and we see a lot but no sign of our subject. We pick up a rancher who had seen some odd tracks and do one more loop over that area but still nothing.

The decision is made to take a group over to where the rancher saw the tracks and do a foot and canine search of the area. Most of our remaining IMSARU members plus some Posse and ATV club members load up to follow him to the rendezvous point. It is decided that most of the team will hike up to the spot on foot, following the rancher on his horse, while the ATVers await a decision on the locked gate. Watson has already been working hard, so Ann and Gregg decide to wait until they can catch a ride on the ATVs. There is confusion over who is handling the opening of the gate and the only alternative involves unraveling a significant amount of barbed wire. The gate is eventually opened; the four-wheelers load up and head out to join the others.

The initial team has reached the tracks and decided to wait for the dog and a “tracker,” which is presumed to be me. I take a look at a couple of the tracks. They are not the same print we had been following the previous night; beyond that, I can’t say much. We decide that bringing the dog up and letting him sniff around is the best thing to do. After some miscommunication, that team arrives and Ann tells me that some of the searchers have gotten a whiff of carrion. A search of the brushy draw below the trail finds nothing helpful...but Watson gets sprayed by a skunk. That stinks. We head back to camp.

There is food on a table, but all I can focus on is a Dominos box. Francisco brought up three pizzas when he returned after work to help again. Ann and I agree it is the BEST pizza we have ever had. IMSARU is full of heroes. [Not only did Francisco and his wife bring up the pizzas, but Francisco then drove home two searchers who had been up for 36 hours, having worked all night before going to the search. Francisco’s wife took the family car home.]

We debrief with everyone, including the missing man’s wife. Ann explains the difficulties of the search, and the deputy promises they will keep looking. None of us wants to leave the search unfinished, but we are beat. It is time for IMSARU to go home. I follow Ann as far as Horseshoe Bend hill. I think maybe we both wander just a little bit on the road, but we stay awake and make it home okay by about 10 p.m. I need a shower and sleep.

[Editor’s Note: This was an extensive search, including the Gem County Sheriff’s personnel, the Gem County Sheriff’s Posse, the Gem County ATV Club, local volunteers, and others we haven’t listed. A mounted searcher found the body of the missing man on the morning of July 8, not in the prime search area. Media reports said he died of natural causes, of a medical problem he probably did not even know he had. A side note is that our trackers had spent two days searching for sign that matched the boots he was reportedly wearing...but he was wearing tennis shoes.]

IMSARU participants on one or both days included: Judd Ballard with Zora, Amanda Barsness, Francisco Castellon, Winston Cheyney with Skadi, Danny Cone, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Linda Kearney, Nathan Kenney, Brian Kerley, Carl Kidwell, Wade Kimball, Ross Mackintosh, Clint Matthews, Owen Miller, Daniel Moore, Ann Moser with Watson, Gregg Rettschlag, Phil Sander, Dan Scovel and Rebecca Shaver. Rod Knopp handled most of our in-town coordination.

CALENDAR

Aug. 3	Clean, inventory and organize Corn Booth materials	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 4	Tracker Training – Contact Kris or Dan at 376-7573	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 7	K9 Team Training – Contact Linda Kearney at 371-1175	
Aug. 10	Load Corn Booth and supplies into vehicles	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 14	Set up Corn Booth at Western Idaho Fairgrounds – Need 25 people! Drivers meet at the Compound All others meet at the Western Idaho Fairgrounds	8:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m.
Aug. 15 – 19	Complete Corn Booth set-up as needed	
Aug. 20 – 29	Corn Booth at the Western Idaho Fair every day Call Diane Mathews at 375-3671 to schedule your volunteer shifts.	10 a.m.- midnight
Aug. 30	Take down Corn Booth, starting at 3 p.m. Report to the Fairgrounds as soon as you can get there after work. Need at least 15 people!	
Aug. 31	Return Corn Booth to storage at the Compound.	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 5	K9 Team Training – Contact Tom Kearney at 921-9454	
Sept. 7	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 10-12	MRA Intermountain Region Re-accreditation Testing	
Sept. 14	SAR Training – Search Techniques & GPS	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	Tracker Training – Contact Lori Thompson at 867-9533	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 18-19	SAR Field Training – Search Techniques & GPS	Time & Place TBA
Sept. 21	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	K9 Team Training – Contact Tony Bench at 401-8474	
Sept. 28	Trackers' Planning Session at the Compound Business Meeting	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 30	Tracker Training – Contact Jimmie Yorgensen at 345-1450	

IN-HOUSE TRACK AWARENESS TRAINING – JUNE 8 & 12, 2010 --JIMMIE YORGENSEN

During the month of June, IMSARU's Mantracking team put together a track awareness class to share with other interested members of the unit. Tuesday evening was the classroom portion of the training, consisting of the very basics. Instructors Charlotte, Lori and Jimmie, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and other visual aids, helped members understand that whenever anyone moves about on foot they leave sign...and that trained trackers are most often able to locate the physical evidence of that sign. Instruction included how to set up and use a tracking stick, how to draw the subject's footprint, and the function and positioning of the three-member tracking team. Tuesday's class also included glossary



Jimmy giving the morning briefing

Photo by G. Gunn

terms and pictures to demonstrate such factors as compression, lighting and light angles, shine, bruising, transfer, scuffs, aging and track traps, just to name a few.

The track awareness class continued on Saturday at Shaffer Butte campground with a six-hour session that let the students apply what they had learned on Tuesday to real dirt. The morning portion consisted of six different work stations where the students were instructed in how to protect the sign, aging, hands-on setup and proper use of the tracking stick, drawing of the print, a track trap, and what shows after different parts of

the body have made contact with the dirt. After lunch, we divided into teams and everyone got a couple of hours of following sign. To add some challenge, a rain-and-hail storm had blown through the area after the sign had been laid.

It turned out to be a beautiful day in the Idaho mountains. We hope we were successful in helping our students understand the basic tracking concept that trained trackers "see what others look at and do not see," and to understand why trained trackers are a vital mission resource for land search efforts. Assisting in the instruction of the class were Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Linda Kearney, Dan Scovel, Kris Scovel, Lori Thompson and Jimmie Yorgensen. Other members attending were Judd Ballard, Jared Belsher, Dyana Dailey-Massig, John Ferguson, Ann Finley, Ann Moser, Marcus Pearlman, Alex Shaver (VSAR) and Rebecca Shaver.



Lori demonstrated methods of preserving tracks. -Photo by G. Gunn



2010 TRACKING COURSE ANOUNCEMENT

Date: October 8 – 10, 2010

Time: 08:00 a.m., Friday, October 8, 2010 through 2:00 p.m., Sunday, October 10, 2010.

Location: Idaho National Guard Base, Gowen Road, Boise Idaho

Course Cost: \$ 310.00 payable to IMSARU, 2519 Federal Way, Boise, Idaho 83705, or \$240 without lodging if you want to arrange your own accommodations. (You need to indicate this on the registration sheet.) \$100 deposit is required to reserve space in this class; due by *September 15, 2010*.

Meals & Accommodations: Dormitory style accommodations are provided Thursday, October 7th through Saturday, October 9th nights. These are individual rooms with one twin bed in each room, TV, small fridge. Common area in each dorm with a larger TV and seating area. Bathrooms and showers are communal. If you are a couple, you need to let me know so different arrangements can be made. Meals and snacks are provided from Friday morning through Sunday lunch.

There are NO prerequisites for this training presentation. This tracking course is open to all persons with tracking interests regardless of previous experience or training, and will focus on primary training for beginning or novice student interests. This will be a certification course for all eligible students. All tracking students will be provided training at an appropriate level for their development and upward progress.

Course Content: This will be a 24 hour course beginning at 8:00 am Friday, October 8, with registration and lecture including PowerPoint presentation to provide Novice and Basic trackers **an understanding of training methodology, techniques and procedures. "Tracking" is a first response primary search resource used to verify witness statements, establish the "PLS" and direction of subject travel, and follow the physical evidence to the missing person. Field training will allow "student tracking team" experimentation and "hands-on" practice of fundamental tracking techniques.** Students at all training levels will be individually challenged with additional advanced tracking concepts and techniques.

Student Needs: Students should be physically fit and equipped for SAR field response. Field practice will continue during any inclement weather; students should be properly prepared with wet/dry, cold/hot weather gear. Knee pads may be helpful. Students need to bring a pen/pencil, note pad, small measuring tape, 5/8 inch doweling or similar (36 to 40 inches long, with three rubber bands) to use as a tracking stick and a three-cell flashlight.

Registration: Students must pre-register by September 15, 2010 for this course with a \$100 deposit. If you have any questions regarding the class or class location please contact Kris Scovel at (208) 376-7573 or by email at krscovel@yahoo.com. Send your deposit to: IMSARU - c/o Kris Scovel, 2519 Federal Way, Boise, ID 83705, **or pay on line using Pay Pal**. The link to pay on line is <http://www.imsaru.org/trackingclass.htm> If using Pay Pal please **don't forget to send your registration form by mail and indicate payment was made using Pay Pal**. Pre-registered students failing to attend this course will forfeit the \$100.00 service fee.

TRAINING COURSE REGISTRATION

Course Applicant : Please complete this form and send to:

IMSARU c/o Kris Scovel, 2519 Federal Way, Boise, ID 83705

Questions? Call Kris Scovel at 208-376-7573 or email her at krscovel@yahoo.com

Course Location: Idaho National Guard Base, Gowen Road, Boise, ID

Course Date: October 8-10, 2010

Course Name: Tracking

Student Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

Prov/State: _____ Zip Code/Postal Code: _____

Phone #: (____) _____ Group/Unit/County: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Current JHPTS Certification *(please check one)*

New Student Basic Tracker Apprentice Tracker

Journeyman Tracker Sign Cutter

Deposit Enclosed \$100.00 _____ Tuition Fee Enclosed \$ _____

If you paid via Pay Pal, check here _____

If lodging is not required, check here _____

Applicant: Please note any requests or questions that you have and wish a response from the contact person.

**INJURED MOTORCYCLIST NEAR GRAHAM GUARD STATION
JULY 3-4, 2010
--MICHAEL JOHNSON**

On Saturday evening, July 3, at approximately 6:40 pm IMSARU was requested to assist with the backcountry extraction of an injured motorcyclist. I arrived at the Compound at ~7:15 pm and John arrived shortly after. Tom and Gregg were already there and readying 901. The information we had was that a motorcyclist was badly injured somewhere near Graham and Life Flight needed our assistance. Our plan was to go up through Idaho City and take the Edna Creek road then up toward Graham. When we exited highway 21 we attempted to raise Rick on the radio but instead got a response from Jerry Newland, who was working with the Idaho City ambulance crew that night and was also paged out for this call. Jerry told us that we had been asked to stand down as Life Flight had a plan that didn't require our assistance, but he said we were more than welcome to come on up to the LZ to watch. Rick was on his way to our location from Garden Valley but received the page to stand down in transit so he turned back.

The LZ was located in a large meadow approximately 3 to 4 miles from the Edna Creek turnoff on Highway 21. When we arrived on scene we were asked to stand by. Fifteen minutes later Life Flight 77 landed. The flight nurse and Jerry began to discuss the details of their plan and it was soon realized that they would in fact need our help. Jerry asked for two volunteers so Gregg and I spoke up. He told us to grab our gear and take what we thought we would need as he didn't know if we would have to stay the night, hike out or get picked up by our ground team John and Tom.

Gregg and I jumped on the helo and were soon airborne. After ten minutes or so, we were landing on a road roughly one-half mile north of the airstrip at Graham. The pilot shut down the helo because there was no safe exit with the rotor turning. We grabbed our gear along with the backboard and headed up the road where we met the other flight nurse and two brothers of the patient. The flight nurse had immobilized him, started an IV and administered meds.

According to the two brothers, the three of them had been riding on the road and dodged one fallen tree but the older brother didn't see the next tree and hit it at about 35 mph. The extent of his injuries was unknown but he was in a lot of pain, could not move his legs and was unresponsive to stimulus from the waist down.

We assisted in rolling the patient and placing him on the backboard. Gregg held C-spine, doing an excellent job of maintaining stability of the patient's head and neck! Once he was on the backboard, we began carrying him on the 200-meter (or so) trek back to the helo. Meanwhile, the pilot of Life Flight 77 called in another Life Flight helo (75) to transport Gregg and me back to the pickup LZ.

We loaded the patient then ran back to the accident site to pick up our packs. We quickly made our way back to the helos and worked out a plan to get everyone out. The helo with the patient took off and headed to St. Al's while our pilot went through the pre-flight checks. By the time we took off it was dark and I had lost all depth perception; all I could see was the skyline. Our pilot didn't know exactly where our pickup LZ was located so Gregg gave him a general loca-

tion based on a very quickly acquired waypoint as we were lifting off earlier. We headed back toward this location doing some slight "S" turns along the way. As we approached we could very plainly see the LZ lit up with the lights from the Idaho City Ambulance, the fire truck and the LZ beacons in the meadow. After circling once, we landed and exited the helo.

Just after we left to go help the Life Flight crew with the patient, John, Tom and Collin Garner continued toward our location in 901 and other support vehicles. The plan was to pick us up and bring us out that way. Jerry called them back when he found out we were on our way back to the LZ on board Life Flight 75. Once everyone was back at the LZ we all headed back to the Compound.

A big Thank You to Life Flight for calling the 2nd helo in to give us a ride back to the LZ. Had they not done this it would have been a very long night for all of us. IMSARU members responding included John Ferguson, Michael Johnson, Gregg Rettschlag, Rick Webster (canceled before arrival at scene) and Tom Wheless.

TRACKING CLASS AT CAMP PERKINS, JULY 9-11, 2010 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

Camp Perkins is outside of Stanley, near Alturas Lake, so it's reasonably close for those of us who live in the Boise area. We had the luxury of only eleven students with two instructors, Joel Hardin and Remy Newcombe, which meant lots of personal attention and help when we needed it. There is no such thing at a busy camp as ground without previous footprints, but the novice students followed tracks up and across a hillside while the more advanced students grappled with a scenario that included running steps across a desert field, an encounter with a second person, one person dragging the other and the two lines of sign exiting in different directions. As usual, it was frustrating and enjoyable.

Many thanks to Blaine County for arranging and sponsoring this class. In addition to seven Blaine County personnel, IMSARU members attending included Linda Kearney, Ann Finley, George Gunn and Charlotte Gunn.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We greatly appreciate the cash donations received from:

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary 3691 in Caldwell.

The HP Company Foundation and **HP Employees** who contribute via this route.

Mr. Thyne Murdoch.

Kristin Guentz Sample, Karen Guentz Fleming and Janet Guentz Benoit and families whose donation is **in memory of Carl Colson.**

We also appreciate the help given us by **Treasure Valley Motorsports** of Nampa.

“PERSON NEEDING HELP” – ATLANTA – JUNE 14-15, 2010
--CHARLOTTE GUNN

State Communications paged us at 8:07 p.m. with a request for aid from Elmore County. People at the hot springs in Atlanta had seen a person, dressed at least partly in orange, waving from the mountainside above them as though trying to call for help. Residents brought out their spotting scope and saw the same thing. The terrain is extremely steep in that area, including many cliffs, so Elmore County requested our technical team and 17 IMSARU members responded.

It was of course the middle of the night by the time our crew and members of Elmore County SAR reached the staging area at the Powerplant Campground, but local resident Dave Gill led a team of five



View from the bottom

—Photo by R. Shaver

experienced backcountry searchers up toward the place where the report placed the subject. They went as far as was feasible in the dark, hunkered down until first light, then continued on with some radioed guidance from those still at Base Camp.

Jerry Terlisner of the Ada County Aerial Sheriffs was ready to fly, and Elmore County had obtained a mission number to try to get a Guard helicopter en route when Bob called to cancel. The ground team had finally managed to reach the spot where the waving orange had been spotted...and found an orange Forest Service sign, originally nailed at all four corners but now blowing in the wind from the one remaining fastener.

There was no indication that this was anything other a true mistake in interpreting what people saw, and there was no regret that our team would not have to take someone down in a litter from that steep mountainside.

Special thanks to Elmore County’s officer Rich Wills, who brought in his catering equipment and supplies to cook breakfast and lunch for the search crews. Reports are that he worked wonders with that huge skillet.

IMSARU members participating included Jeff Ball, Judd Ballard, Danny Cone, Todd Culley, Collin Garner, Tim Henning, Michael Johnson, Clint Matthews, Bob Meredith (O.L.), Owen Miller, Jerry Newland, Gregg Rettschlag, Rebecca Shaver, Kris Walker (who happened to be in town on a quick visit), Mark Westerdoll, Steve Wolfstich and Everett Wood. In-town coordinators were George Gunn and Charlotte Gunn.



“He’s up there somewhere.”



Kris keeping up his participation points even though he now lives in Washington State.



A tired K9 team gets a ride back to Base Camp, thanks to Gem County ATV Club. — Photo by R. Shaver

**BE SURE TO
CHECK THE
ENCLOSED
OCTOBER
MANTRACKING
CLASS
ANNOUNCEMENT
AND
REGISTRATION
FORM**