

**WEB
EDITION**

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RESCUE

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

FOUNDING MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



**A WEEKEND IN SPANISH FORK, UTAH
REACCREDITATION TESTING FOR M.R.A., SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2010**



--AIMEE HASTRITER

On Friday, sixteen unit members piled into six vehicles and headed off to Spanish Fork in Utah. As a member of the Mountain Rescue Association, our unit participates in a regional reaccreditation process every five years. Having completed the winter portion in March, we were about to complete the summer portion—technical rock rescue and search management.

On our way southward, we made the obligatory stop at Smith and Edwards (outside of SLC). If you are not familiar with this place, you ought to consider checking it out. It is not every day that you see a place that sells cannons, dollar store items you just can't live without, fancy house lamps and saddles, all under the same roof as a stand selling chili dogs. Seriously. We managed to tear ourselves

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away from this adventure and finally reach our destination, set up camp and find our way to the food.

Bright and early on Saturday morning, the team was up and ready for the day. Brad, Tim and Bob represented our unit as evaluators (Bob in the morning only) and hurried off to their prospective assignments. Brad was an evaluator for one of the high-angle scenarios and Tim for a low-angle scenario. Someone volunteered Rebecca to be a “victim” in the high-angle rescue scenario and we didn’t see her again until lunchtime. The rest of us huddled at the base of a large rock with five ropes hanging over the edge.

The first test began with those five ropes. Mike, Owen, Brian, John and Jeff were selected to represent the unit for the “personal skills” tests, including ascending and descending a rope with a knot in it, building an anchor and a 3-to-1 pulley system, displaying their 24-hour packs, working through map and compass exercises, and answering a myriad of technical and medical questions. Each of the five performed excellently and of course passed this section of the test.

Next up on the agenda was the low-angle scenario with a medical component. While a few team members scouted for



Debrief and critique of our participation. (we passed)

likely anchor points for the main and belay lines, others were working to medically assess the “victim” and prepare him for travel in the litter. Once the anchors were established and the main and belay lines set up and attached to the litter, four individuals attached themselves to the litter and the business of lowering the patient to safety began. The terrain was slightly steep and made up of very loose dirt, which made the going very difficult for the litter attendants and slow for everyone. After the demonstration of our low-angle lowering skills, the evaluators indicated that the “rescue ambulance” was actually going to be up the hill from where the victim was

originally located. So, the guys manning the main and belay lines quickly set up the system to raise the litter, and the poor litter attendants had the opportunity to scramble back up the slippery slopes they had so carefully navigated down. Everyone was very relieved when the litter was set on the appropriate flat surface and the test was complete. Once again the team worked well and we passed this portion also.

After lunch came the high-angle scenario, once again with a medical component. We took what seemed a very long hike up a fairly steep hill, carrying personal packs and the unit gear we would need. Finally we reached the site and were briefed on the scenario. The anchors for the main line and belay line were established and systems set up. The “victim” (Rebecca) was evaluated medically and then set up to be lowered over the edge to the ground below. The decision was made to forego the litter and tie Rebecca’s harness directly into the system. She was also connected to the rescuer who would see that she safely reached their destination. This time there was a knot in the rope and the team had to demonstrate the ability to pass this knot in a safe and efficient manner. When the team completed lowering the rescuer and victim to the bottom of the cliff, we packed up the gear and headed to the parking lot for a debriefing. Having passed the technical rock rescue tests, we had one final obstacle to clear in order to complete the reaccreditation process.

In case you were not aware, our reputation as searchers precedes us. It turns out that while other teams might have more missions, they are more often of the rescue-type and less often the search-type. Needless to say, it was expected that we would do well in this scenario and indeed we did. It started with several teams maneuvering in the field, looking for clues and following the endless supply of new information that filtered into base camp. Back at base camp, we were scurrying to assimilate new information, manage “relatives of the victim,” and document, document, document. I don’t think I have had the opportunity to work in base camp before and found the copious amount of paperwork and radio monitoring almost more fun than I could handle. The best moment, aside from actually finding the victim, was when base camp requested a helicopter. The sheriff had no sooner said the helicopter was busy at the moment but would be available later, when the helicopter rose up from where it had been hiding, behind the small hill directly in front of base camp. The timing was perfect! Soon after, we were able to send a team member up in the helicopter and gathered even more information to help guide the search. After what seemed like forever (but really wasn’t), the team successfully located the subject (which happened to be a rather small “newborn” baby doll—talk about a needle in a haystack!) Our team worked together well and completed the objective with positive reviews from the evaluators.

Saturday night was awesome...a great fire, great friends and teammates, and so much laughter I actually shed a tear or two. It felt good to have successfully completed the tests and to know we are a fully-accredited team in the M.R.A. until we get to do this again in five years. Many, many thanks to Utah County Search and Rescue for organizing and hosting this event, and to all the individuals who contributed so many hours to training and participation.

IMSARU participants included Brad Acker, Jeff Ball, Jared Belsher, Francisco Castellon, Danny Cone, John Ferguson, Aimee Hastriter, Tim Henning, Mike Johnson, Brian Kerley, Nate Kinney, Bob Meredith, Owen Miller, Gregg Rettschlag, Phil Sander and Rebecca Shaver.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 11, 2010

Bill and Marty Lindenau have again offered to host the IMSARU Christmas Party, so put it on your calendar now! This is our one big social event of the year and we welcome spouses and special friends as well as our members and any former members who show up.

If this will be your first time to attend, don't hesitate. We have a potluck dinner—bring food to share but table service will be supplied. We share memories of the past year and some of events further back in history, eat a lot, laugh a lot, and often have photos or videos to jog our memories.

We will need a committee to rent and transport tables and chairs, provide tablecloths and non-alcoholic beverages, etc. in consultation with the Lindenaus. Everyone helps to clean up at the end.

This is also the time to present awards for 2010. Diane Mathews and Charlotte Gunn handle the non-serious side, marking events that the participants would sometimes prefer not to discuss but can laugh at now that they are past. If you remember a humorous incident during the year, please share the info with Diane or Charlotte ASAP so they can prepare an appropriate award; they do not reveal the names of their sources.

For the serious awards, our president will soon appoint a committee to receive suggestions, make decisions, select the awards, get them engraved where needed, etc. All of this takes time, so please start writing notes about the persons you think have made outstanding contributions to IMSARU during 2010, and why you think so. Forms will be made available at the meetings, but any piece of paper will do.

DECEMBER 11, 2010, AT 6:00 P.M.

***AT THE HOME OF BILL AND MARTY LINDENAU
1407 S. COTTERELL WAY***

Directions: Heading west on Overland, pass Maple Grove. Shortly past the empty fire station, 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 maple tree in the yard on the left. The house has a brown roof and will have beautiful Christmas decorations everywhere.

K9 TEAMS TRAINED AT CRATERS OF THE MOON OCTOBER 24-26, 2010 KIM JUDA

K9 teams from IMSARU traveled to Craters of the Moon National Monument to attend a joint training session with K9 teams from Blaine County, Bonneville County, Teton County, Elko NV, and Jackson WY. This was the third joint training session held this year and was a great opportunity to train with, observe and learn from other K9 handlers. Teams tracked, trailed, air-scented and worked cadaver problems across lava outcroppings, through trees and across the dusty desert. The terrain was a little hard on the K9 paws, but they did a wonderful job and a good weekend was had by all.

IMSARU team members took their turn and provided dinner for 20 K9 handlers Saturday night. Judd manned the barbeque, cooking up elk and beef steaks provided by Ann, and the tables were packed with all sorts of home-made goodies created by IMSARU team members for a desert feast enjoyed by all. It was a great weekend and all the teams agreed on the next joint training session in March, to be hosted by IMSARU.

K9 teams attending from our unit were Ann Moser with Watson and Cricket, Linda Kearney with Cayenne, Judd Ballard with Zora, and Kim Juda with Kiwi.

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2011

In accordance with our by-laws, IMSARU elected officers for the coming year on the first Tuesday in October, the 5th. Their term of office begins on December 1; the intervening time allows incoming and outgoing officers to work together on transition, including budget proposals for 2011.

Coordinator -- Rod Knopp	Logistics Director – Danny Cone
President -- George Gunn **	Rescue Director – Bob Meredith
Vice President -- Carl Kidwell	Medical Director – Colin Sese
Secretary -- Ann Moser	Training Director – Owen Miller
Treasurer -- Phil O'Bryan	Facilities Director – Brad Acker **
Public Relations Director -- Jimmie Yorgensen **	

**indicates new Board members; all others are re-elected to same positions as in 2010.

We are continuing our efforts to share the load of maintaining the organization and to train additional people for important jobs. With that in mind, we have some members who are officially noted as assistants to elected Board members: Jeff Ball will assist Bob with Technical Rescue; Mike Johnson will assist Owen with Training; others are yet to be announced. And volunteers are continuing in their appointed positions as New Member Coordinator and Newsletter Editor, in working with the new member mentoring program and the VSAR program, and in working on special projects. All of us joined IMSARU with the goal of participating in searches and rescues, but we also have an obligation to keep the organization functioning in order to support our goal.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Kathy and Michael Gard for a cash donation from a fundraiser you set up.

The **Race to Robie Creek** committee for a generous cash donation.

The **Columbia County (WA) Deputy Sheriffs' Association** for a cash donation.

Bill Lindenau, Lamar Lewis and **Jim Cooper** for safely removing the tree on the south side of the Compound garage. (A September windstorm had brought a couple of large branches down on the garage roof and we found that the tree had been weakened by borers beyond a safe condition.)

ATV RIDER MISSING FROM IDAHO CITY AREA – AUGUST 14, 2010

--DANNY CONE

I just got home from helping set up the Corn Booth and sat down to rest when the pager went off. I wondered what kind of cruel joke this was, then realized it was real, called in and headed back to Boise. Rod said a full briefing would be at the Sheriff's Office in Idaho City, so I picked up new member Byron and off we went to Idaho City. Rod said Jerry was already there and I assumed he would be O.L. We arrived to find out that Jerry was already in the field with a UTV, as he knew this subject, so we all went inside and Lt. Archer gave us a briefing.

A 65-year-old male had left home on his ATV the previous evening with no food or water and had not returned. He had a complex medical history as the result of a stroke, so was at high risk and needed to be found. We received descriptions of the missing man and his ATV with ½ tank of gas, indicating about a 60-mile range.

It was then that someone said I was O.L. for this mission; I thought I needed to get my hearing checked. Anyway, the thought of "trial by fire" came to mind. I grabbed my operations kit from my truck, started looking at maps and pairing up newbies with seasoned members, thought about panicking but didn't have time. We had sixteen of our people with six ATVs and vehicles combined, to search roads in an area of about 130 square miles, and darkness was fast approaching.

I set up operations at the Sheriff's Office, as they had phones, dispatch, an on-line computer at our disposal if needed, lots of room to spread out a lot of things, walls to hang maps and a whiteboard. We set up our radio communications from 901, out in the parking lot, as the handheld didn't work well inside. Everett was our first communications guy, relieved by Mike when another ATV arrived to pair with Everett. We had six teams in the field, the IC trailer en route via Bill Lindenau, a Blackhawk and a fixed-wing on tap for the next morning, and were trying to enlist the ATV club when a dispatcher came in and said she had an unconfirmed report that the subject had walked out.

All teams stood by until the report was confirmed and an ambulance was dispatched to the subject's location for assessment. The subject refused transport. He stated he had wrecked his ATV twice and slept out Friday night (but was reportedly seen on the ATV on Saturday); he couldn't remember where the ATV was but he was OK. A sincere thank-you to all who pitched in and helped with this mission.

IMSARU members included Brad Acker, Judd Ballard, Danny Cone, John Ferguson, Mike Johnson, Kim Juda, Linda Kearney, Tom Kearney, John Kingrey, Clint Matthews, Ann Moser, Jennifer Newland, Jerry Newland, Gregg Rettschlag, Byron Wachtler and Everett Wood. In-town coordination was handled by Rod Knopp and Bill Lindenau.

**MISSING PERSON SEARCH IN STARBUCK, WASHINGTON
SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2010
--JIMMIE YORGENSEN**

At the request of the Columbia County (Washington) Sheriff and a family member, IMSARU volunteers and three K-9 teams responded to search for a missing man. We spent a total of three days with travel time and search activities. Our subject lived in Starbuck, Washington--population 130. It is located in rural Columbia County, which has a population of 4,500. Starbuck was the center of our activities.

Our group consisted of IMSARU members Ann Moser and K9 Watson, Rod Knopp, Mike Mancuso, Tom Wheless and Jimmie Yorgensen, together with Cheryl Cuthbertson and K9 Bravo (from Elko, NV) and Ronda Bowser and K9 Pandora (from Orofino, ID). All three dogs are certified and experienced search and cadaver dogs.

On Monday evening, the search team met for briefing with county officials, the local mayor and a friend of the subject. We learned that the 64-year-old gentleman had been a resident of Starbuck for about fifteen years and had been missing for about seven months. He was described as reclusive and not having a close family; he had previously been known to be gone for lengthy periods of time without telling anyone he was going, and he particularly enjoyed hiking in and around the Starbuck area. The local deputy told us that the subject's car, bicycle, last will and testament, shaving kit and a large sum in travelers' checks were all found at his home. We also learned that the subject often carried a handgun and that his favorite gun was missing from his large collection.

Prior to our departure some of the team members, along with George and Charlotte Gunn, had an opportunity to work on some possible search strategies and tactics. George had prepared a lot of maps of the area; using the Gunns' years of experience, we identified potential areas to search and the best use of our time and limited resources. After the briefing and in discussions with the local personnel, it was clear we were all on the same page.

Search team members and county officials met before daybreak each day to plan logistics and get things moving. The weather was super, very favorable for dogs and old men hiking in the hinterlands of eastern Washington. Much of the search area along the Tucannon River (which runs through town) was very challenging and slow, with steep and brushy banks. Other search areas included the missing man's home, the foothills and rock outcropping overlooking town, a large plateau and cliff area overlooking the confluence of the Tucannon and Snake Rivers and areas in and above the airport.

Unfortunately, at the end of our two days of searching, our team and local officials had been unsuccessful in locating any sign of our subject. I think all involved felt that a good honest effort had been made and, while disappointed, the team members all gained valuable experience. Local authorities have agreed to keep us up to speed on any new developments.

Thanks to Rod for being part of the team and sharing his 46 years of IMSARU experience. Ann played the role of search team leader and did a great job. Many thanks to Cheryl and Ronda and their dogs for joining our team and doing such excellent work. We hope to work with them again sometime. We also appreciate the hospitality and support shown to us by all the local folks involved. Two of the county officials stayed with us the entire time and did all they could to make our efforts successful.



Thank You! to the searchers who participated in the Colombia County, Washington Search. IMSARU brought in additional certified k-9 teams to make this a multi-agency operation.

Back L to R: Mike Mancuso, Tom Wheless, Jimmie Yorgensen. Front: Cheryl Cuthbertson (K-9 Bravo), Rhonda Bowser (K-9 Pandora), Ann Moser (K-9 Watson). Not pictured, Rod Knopp.

2010 CORN BOOTH – AUGUST 20-29 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

As usual, the task seemed overwhelming. As usual, we managed to do it. Volcanic Farms supplied fresh sweet corn every morning; we shucked and cooked and buttered; and people came back for “one more ear”. The storm on the first Saturday evening was indeed spectacular, with trees crashing all over town and several of the tent booths at the fairgrounds failing to survive, but our booth was well engineered and well anchored. We did leave the sides up on our tent-sheltered husking area so the wind could blow through rather than against, but our only “damage” was some fairly major cleaning on Sunday morning. (Think what would happen to counters greasy with butter when we had to evacuate the fairgrounds while the wind blew clouds of dust through the area.)

There are so many who helped with this project that I’m sure to omit some important people from this list, but our volunteers included: Diane Mathews, who again did all the scheduling. Boise Corporation, whose crews staffed both Friday and Saturday nights of the first weekend. Jerry and Jennifer Newland, and Jeff Munn, who each brought family crews to cover a shift. Everett Wood, Susan Read and Jimmie Yorgensen, who worked the weekday day shifts and had everything ready for the “after-work” crowds to arrive. Dozens of IMSARU members who not only worked multiple shifts but also recruited family and friends and neighbors to volunteer. And we can’t forget all the people who worked on preparations weeks before the Fair opened. We especially thank David Oren, Randy Johnson and their crew who did the major repair work on the booth...and even painted the panels; Randy also arranged to get new replacements for the booth’s side counters.

No, we don’t yet know how much money we made, as not all the bills are in. We do know that our gross was a bit above last year’s, and we are absolutely certain that the reason this succeeds as our major fundraiser for the year is that all our workers are unpaid volunteers. Many, many thanks to all who helped us!



Danny looking lonely as the fair was closed early because of expected high winds.

CALENDAR

Oct. 8-10	JHPTS Tracking Course at Gowen Field	
Oct. 12	SAR Training – Base Camp & Mock Mission	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 16	SAR Field Training – Base Camp & Mock Mission	8:30 a.m. Meet at the Compound
Oct. 18	Technical Team – Technician & Specialist Testing	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	Tracker Training – Contact Jimmie Yorgensen at 345-1450	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 23 T.B.A.	Technical Team – Technician & Specialist Testing	Time & Place
Oct. 26	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 2	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 6	Tracker Training – Contact Kris or Dan Scovel at 376-7573	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	SAR Training – Map & Compass – Owen Miller	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 13 T.B.A.	SAR Field Training – Map & Compass	Time & Place
Nov. 16	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 20	Tracker Training – details available later	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 30	Board Meeting—Supper will be provided.	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Christmas Party – more info elsewhere in this issue	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	SAR Training – Clothing and Equipment Classroom only; no field training this month.	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	Tracker Planning Session	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 28	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.