

**WEB
EDITION**

RESCUE

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

FOUNDING MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



**WOODCUTTERS SPENT 48 HOURS STUCK ON GRANDJEAN ROAD
NOVEMBER 30, 2011
--JIMMIE YORGENSEN**

IMSARU pagers went off at 1530 with a request to help Boise County find two overdue woodcutters who were reported by family members to be 48 hours overdue. The reports indicated that the missing subjects were somewhere in the Banner Summit area north of Lowman. They had left home on Sunday and were supposed to be home on Monday. It was now Wednesday. The weather was clear and cold and we were sure there would be snow on the ground in that area.

Unit vehicles 901 and 902 were deployed at 1630 with members Jamie, Judd with K9 Zora, Gregg and Tom. The initial plan was for a road search, but while the team was en route reports started coming in that a passerby had reported to the Boise County Sheriff's Office some stranded vehicles on the Grandjean Road below Banner Summit. The report said one vehicle was out of gas and the other suffered a dead battery. It sounded like a good place to start the search for our missing subjects.

At 1730 Rod deployed Jake, Jacob and Jimmie, with extra fuel, tow straps and jumper cables, to assist in the rescue. Family members had also been driving Highway 21 that day and they were also notified by the Boise County S.O. that these stranded vehicles most likely belonged to the overdue woodcutters. By the time 901 and 902 arrived on scene, family members had provided fuel for one truck and jumped the other. IMSARU members determined the subjects were tired and wet, but medically OK and really wanting to get out. After this evaluation, our members in 901 and 902 were forced to back much of the way up the Grandjean Road, as there was no place to turn around. The woodcutters and family members were now moving slowly, but the same problem that they had struggled with for two long days still existed: They kept getting stuck. Grandjean Road from the Sawtooth Lodge to Highway 21 is uphill, snow-covered, very slick and seven miles long. The woodcutters were not well equipped to deal with the conditions. They had dropped one trailer and unloaded

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most of the wood from the other (a large livestock trailer) in an attempt to pull the grade in the challenging winter conditions.

By now all seven IMSARU members were on scene and waiting at the intersection of Highway 21 and Grandjean Road for our subjects to finally emerge onto the highway. It was very dark and the temperature was dropping fast. It soon became apparent that our subjects were no longer moving and had in fact gotten stuck yet again. They were less than a quarter mile from Highway 21, so all of us just walked back down to offer assistance. The pickup with the livestock trailer had slid off the edge of the road again; they had tried a number of things to free the vehicle but nothing was working. In the end, seven IMSARU members and two family members got behind the trailer, told the driver to go, and we all just pushed until the vehicle had enough momentum to finally make it to Highway 21.

All concerned were relieved to finally be free of their two-day nightmare and very appreciative of our help. With the Sourdough Lodge close by and still open for business, the woodcutters were able to purchase fuel for their return trip to Boise, and with the grill still hot, many of the IMSARU folks were treated to a very tasty hamburger and fries. All our members were back in Boise safe and sound by 2230, having traveled 200 miles on a beautiful winter night in our Idaho mountains.

IMSARU members participating were Judd Ballard, Jake Gillis, Gregg Rettschlag, Jacob Robinson, Jamie Simpson, Tom Wheless and Jimmie Yorgensen. In-town coordinator was Rod Knopp.

2011 HOLIDAY PARADE – NOVEMBER 26

--MIKE JOHNSON

We were invited to participate in this year's Holiday Parade in downtown Boise, with an Outdoor Idaho theme. Jimmie acted as our liaison, attending the orientation meetings and getting us organized for the event.



IMSARU members, ready for the parade.

—Photo by T. Kearney

A few of us met at the Compound to get our new truck, 902, ready and connect it to the command trailer. We then drove down to the mustering point, where we received our number and instructions on where to park, when to get in line, etc.... There were about 100 entries and, I'm told, there were many more that wanted to be in the parade so it was really nice to be included in this event.

As we took our place in line, the wind began to blow and it felt like the temperature dropped a little. Or maybe it was the standing around that

made it feel colder? We pulled onto the parade route, which started at Tenth Street, led us down to Jefferson in front of the Capitol to Fourth, where we turned onto West Bannock and returned to our starting point. We were met by lots and lots of people standing along the edge of the street. Our K9 teams immediately began filtering through the crowds, letting the kids pet the dogs and the dogs lick the kids. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the parade and loved seeing the dogs; they were the stars of the show.

We were back at the starting point in about an hour and disbanded, each heading home or finding a spot along the route to watch the rest of the parade...and to see Santa Claus at the end.

I would like to thank the City of Boise's Parade Council for inviting us to participate this year, and everyone who attended to help represent Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, with a special thanks to Tom for driving our truck.

IMSARU members participating were Luke Sugden, Kimber Smith with K9 Marci, Jamie Simpson with K9 Yoki, Gregg Rettschlag, Alisa Rettschlag, Ann Moser, Tom Kearney, Mike Johnson and Judd Ballard with K9 Zora.

A.F.R.C.C. SEARCH AND RESCUE MANAGEMENT COURSE
OCTOBER 29-30, 2011
--JIMMIE YORGENSEN

Thanks to the efforts and organization of IMSARU member Danny Cone, the Idaho Division of Aeronautics, and support from the Ada County Sheriff's Office, personnel from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center made a stop in Boise to present their free SAR Management class to a packed house of 45 attendees. The class was held at the Ada County Emergency Management Coordination Center in Boise and the participants represented 19 different agencies from 13 different counties in Idaho and Oregon.

The AFRCC is located at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. As the United States' executive agent for inland search and rescue, it serves as the single agency responsible for coordinating on-land Federal SAR activities in the 48 contiguous states. Additionally, the center provides U.S. SAR assistance to Mexico and Canada.

Staffed by people trained and experienced in SAR operations, the AFRCC operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The center has extensive telephone capabilities, including a direct tie-in to the Federal Aviation Agency's alerting system and the U.S. Mission Control Center. Other valuable resources include radar and cell phone forensics capabilities. After AFRCC or other authorities verify an actual distress situation, and with the use of their many resources, they choose the rescue force based on availability and capability of forces, geographic location, terrain, weather conditions and urgency of the situation.

The first day of the course was classroom lecture and instructions. On the second day, attendees were divided into teams and given a real-world scenario of an overdue aircraft carrying family members traveling from Portland, Oregon to Baker City, Oregon. Each team was responsible for managing the search, utilizing the resources available to them to locate the aircraft and complete the search and rescue. Many variables were built into the scenario with clues such as radar and cell phone forensics, ELT reports, low-flyer reports, fuel sales, false reports, adverse weather, and information from family, friends, news media and search crews.

IMSARU members participating in the class were Danny Cone, Jake Gillis, Steve Huffman, Kim Juda, Carl Kidwell, Kris Scovel, Jamie Simpson and Jimmie Yorgensen. Great job, Danny, and thanks for all your hard work in bringing this class to Idaho!

TRAINING: GPS NAVIGATION – NOVEMBER 8 AND 12, 2011
--JARED BELSHER

For November’s SAR training, Owen Miller put together class and field sessions on how to use a handheld GPS receiver. For the classroom training, Owen had us pair up and complete a checklist covering important functions of a GPS receiver. The checklist included turning on the track log; entering, editing and navigating to a waypoint; plotting a UTM coordinate from the GPS receiver onto a topographical map; changing the coordinate system and datum on the GPS; converting a UTM position to a Latitude/Longitude WGS 84 coordinate (needed when communicating your position to an aircraft); and identifying the advantages and limitations of a GPS receiver.

For field training the following Saturday, we met at a training location in southeast Boise near Lucky 13. Once we all arrived, Owen had us pair up and conduct a few GPS training exercises. For the first exercise, he had us practice using the “Trackback” feature on our GPS unit, which allows you to navigate back to your starting position following your previously-laid track or to return to a previous point on your track. From our starting point, we walked in different directions for about ten minutes and then used our trackback feature to return to our starting point, following the GPS track we recorded on the way out.

For the second exercise, Owen had us navigate to three nearby waypoints. The coordinates were given to us in different datum and coordinate systems, so it required us to use some brain power on this chilly morning to change our GPS settings to the proper datum and coordinate system and then punch the coordinates into our GPS units. We all navigated successfully to the waypoints, but not without some challenges. Two members (to be left unnamed) were gone so long to find one waypoint that we began to wonder if they had stopped at Lucky 13 for a few drinks. But they returned and we found out that the real reason they had been gone so long was that they had set their datum incorrectly—a good lesson in the importance of having your datum and coordinate system set up correctly for searches.

GPS settings for IMSARU	
Coordinate System:	UTM
Datum:	NAD27 CONUS
GPS settings for Aircraft	
Coordinate System:	Lat/Long
Datum:	WGS 84

All in all, it was a great training and a great chance to either learn how to navigate using a GPS unit or to try out some features of our GPS unit that we had not used before.

Participants in the field training were Owen Miller (instructor), Jimmie Yorgensen, Mike Johnson, Steve Huffman, Francisco Castellon, Delinda Castellon and Jared Belsher.

IMSARU PROJECTS AND WHO DOES THEM

It is fairly obvious that our elected officers take on responsibilities and contribute their skills and time beyond the basic volunteer activities of the average member. However, it takes a lot of work to keep a complex organization like ours going, so this is an effort to highlight some of the projects that are not specifically part of a person's duties but that have been done during 2011. I'm sure the list is incomplete. If I have omitted names and failed to list projects, or made errors in lists of names, please forgive and write me a note so I can publish a sequel in the next newsletter issue. Projects are listed in no deliberate order...but all deserve the thanks of our members. –Charlotte Gunn

Placed protective bollards in front of garage – Brad Acker, Mike Mancuso, George Gunn, Danny Cone

Built the loft in the garage – Bob Meredith (many hours working alone) and the Technical Team

Reprogramming of radios and inventory of communications equipment – Rod Knopp

Checking, recharging and repacking radios; working on truck maintenance and improvements – Tom Wheless

ID photos – Linda Kearney and Delinda Castellon

Making folders for members – Linda Kearney

Mentoring program – Lori Thompson

Installed backup system for office computer – Francisco Castellon

Organized JHPTS class at Gowen Field – Lori Thompson and Jimmie Yorgensen

Corn Booth: worked daytime weekday shifts – Everett Wood, Jimmie Yorgensen and Linda Kearney

- Closed every night, plus worked multiple shifts – Gregg Rettschlag
- Worked on preliminary tasks to learn the process in order to know how when Charlotte decides to retire – Gregg Rettschlag and Jimmie Yorgensen

Groundskeeping at the Compound – Jimmie Yorgensen

Sold old Suburban – Danny Cone

Worked on radio interference problem in Command Post trailer – Ed Emmel, Jerry Newland, Tom Wheless

Revision of Training Guidelines – Owen Miller, Mike Johnson, Charlotte Gunn

Insurance arrangements – Kris Scovel

Truck Committee to define needs – Dan Scovel, Jerry Newland, Tom Kearney, Danny Cone, George Gunn

Installation of additions to new truck – Danny Cone, Tom Wheless

Arranged graphics on new truck – Jerry Newland

Redid display stand for PR & safety education; built protective carrying case for big-screen display – George Gunn

Arranged for us to be listed for Federal Campaign donations – Michael Mancuso

Set up intro climbing opportunities for female members – Aimee Hastriter

Active Training Committee – Owen Miller, Bob Meredith, Mike Johnson, Charlotte Gunn

Taught winter survival class in Elmore County – Technical Team

Presented Intro to Mantracking at Eastern Oregon SARCON – George Gunn, Charlotte Gunn, Jimmie Yorgensen

Taught Search Management class in Custer County – George Gunn, Rod Knopp, Charlotte Gunn

Organized AFRCC Basic Inland SAR course here in Boise – Danny Cone

Wrote matching grants for equipment – George Gunn

State reports and reimbursement requests for missions – Charlotte Gunn

Wall repair (sheetrock) beside office door and window trim on meeting room – David Oren

Revision of unit Policies – Ann Moser, Charlotte Gunn, Owen Miller

Arranged IMSARU participation in Holiday Parade and gift-wrapping at Sierra Trading Post – Jimmie Yorgensen and Delinda Castellon

THANK YOU!!!

CALENDAR

Dec. 13	SAR Training – Winter Clothing & Equipment (No field training in December)	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	K9 Training – Contact Ann Moser at 514-9265	
Dec. 20	Interview & Announcement of Raffle Winner on Channel 7 Noon	
Dec. 20	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 27	NO MEETING	
Jan. 3	Business Meeting (to replace Dec. 27 non-meeting)	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	K9 Training – Contact Tom Kearney at 921-9454	
Jan. 10	SAR Training – Avalanche – Winston Cheyney	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	SAR Training – Avalanche – Winston Cheyney	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21-22	SAR Field Training – Avalanche	Time & Place TBA
Jan. 22	Possible K9 Training, depending on Avalanche Training Schedule Contact Judd Ballard at 830-5013 when close to date.	
Jan. 24	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	K9 Training – Contact Kimber Smith at 891-9133	
Feb. 7	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	K9 Handlers' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	SAR Training	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18-19	SAR Field Training	Time & Place TBA
Feb. 21	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	K9 Training – Contact Jamie Simpson at 384-1193	
Feb. 28	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.

**INTER-AGENCY COMMUNICATION –
CIVIL AIR PATROL DECEMBER 6, 2011
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

Lt. Eric Freeman of the Civil Air Patrol attended our meeting and presented information about his organization's structure, personnel, equipment and procedures. Most of our newer members have not worked with CAP, but those of us who have been around for a while remember both trainings and missions when we worked together. All of us learned a great deal about what the CAP does and does not do, and why.

Since the CAP is a unit of the Air Force, local groups cannot just do as they wish when they wish it; they must be dispatched according to protocol. Their most common mission is tracking down aircraft distress signals...most of which are found parked at airports and set off unknowingly. However, IMSARU has more than once been asked to send a team to recover one or more bodies at a backcountry crash site, and we obviously couldn't do anything until someone had located that site. My personal favorite, however, is the "high bird" that can circle above a rugged mission area and provide communications for teams separated by ridges and peaks.

Many thanks to Lt. Freeman for educating us about another agency with whom we could be working.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Johnson Bookkeeping Service LLC, for a cash donation.

The Bill & Jackie Clark Memorial Foundation, for a cash donation.

Jan Nastasi-Harris for a cash donation.

The Cabela's Store in Boise for giving us materials for our holiday fundraising project.

Bogus Basin for donating to us a season ski pass, which we are raffling as a fundraiser.**

The Sierra Trading Post Store in Meridian for setting us up as gift-wrappers during the holiday season.

Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, Inc. is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. We have no paid staff and our members supply their own personal equipment as well as donate their time, training and skills to help those in trouble whenever and wherever we are requested by the law enforcement agency in charge. Donations to us are considered charitable gifts for tax purposes.

**If you are interested in winning this season ski pass but haven't yet bought a ticket, contact any IMSARU member right away. The winner will be announced on Channel 7 during our noon news interview on December 20.

DUES POLICY CHANGED

At the Board meeting on November 29, our dues policy was altered to reflect changes already made in IMSARU procedure for officer elections and the MRA's requirement for submission of membership lists.

For calendar year 2012, we will continue as already announced: If you have paid IMSARU dues by December 15, we will include you on our list when we send our dues and info to MRA. (Those dues must be received at MRA before January first in order for our representative to vote at the winter meeting.) You will still remain on our local membership list up until the first meeting in April as stated in previous policy; if you have not paid 2012 dues by then, you will no longer be a member of IMSARU.

Beginning next year, dues for 2013 are to be paid by October first of 2012, and that schedule will continue for following years. The October dues payment is currently required in order to vote for officers for the next year, but will become the payment due date for all purposes rather than have differing dates for different events. This will allow us to easily meet the MRA requirement, as well as those of other organizations requesting new info at the start of the calendar year. In the near future, the Board will announce a different deadline from the current April one for being dropped from IMSARU membership.

Applicants who join during 2012 will be informed that their applicant fee covers their dues only until October first; at that point, they will need to pay continuing-member dues just like everyone else. (This means no pro-rating. With this knowledge, applicants in late summer or early autumn can decide whether to postpone their applications until October...and all IMSARU members need to remember this change in order to avoid confusion.)

Are you now totally confused? This change means that our fiscal year remains the same as the calendar year, but our dues year will now run October 1 – September 30, beginning in October of 2012.

MEDICAL TRAINING – CPR CLASS – NOVEMBER 15, 2011 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

Since Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit is a member of the Mountain Rescue Association, one requirement for our individual members is to acquire and maintain training in basic first aid and CPR. (Several of our members have chosen to continue into more advanced medical training, but that is not a unit requirement.)

For our November medical training night, we moved the chairs to the edges of our meeting room and opened up floor space for the training mannequins. Rebecca Shaver and Francisco Castellon reviewed basic principles and procedures, then put us in small groups to practice chest compressions and rescue breathing. Approximately two dozen members took advantage of this training to earn or renew their medical cards.

Many thanks to ICEMT, under the direction of Collin Garner, for supplying the equipment and training so inexpensively to our volunteers.

MOCK MISSION – TRAINING, OCTOBER 15, 2011 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

Training Director Owen Miller challenged us with a mock mission in the foothills on a bright October morning. “A woman went hiking on Friday and did not return”; the only other information was first name, height and approximate age—as much as we often get on real calls. We met at the Compound, made sure 901 had its mission-ready supplies plus a box of radios for this event and an extra case of water, and carpooled out to the trailhead off of Warm Springs Avenue. Throughout the day, hikers, mountain bikers and dog-walkers met us and questioned us about our activity; once they learned it was a training, they were happy to return to their activities.

Jake worked with Owen at base camp; the rest of us were divided into three teams and each assigned a search area. More experienced members helped those with shaky GPS skills, and all consulted the maps before starting up the dusty track. Many of the steep hillsides are comparatively open for visibility; the same cannot be said for the gullies choked with weeds, shrubby growth and poison ivy. Similar mixed descriptions can be applied to trails; they are many, varied, and don’t necessarily go where we needed to search.

Our subject had been instructed to not respond until someone called her name while near enough to be seen. The searcher who walked within five feet of her (hidden deep in the gully) failed to call her name and only later learned how much effort he might have spared all of us. It was early afternoon before Owen redirected all teams to re-search that long gully, and we finally heard a response to our calls. Linda said she had been there long enough, and all of us were ready to hike out to base for debriefing and brownies.

Lessons learned: (1) Those who are not up to speed with GPS (we know who we are) need to practice using that important tool. (2) All of us need to keep aware of where various teams are working. Team One was told to wait where they were until Team Three joined them...which meant that Team Three hiked a long way down only to be sent right back up again for that final sweep—not the most efficient use of time and personnel. (3) Yoki was awesome, working almost five hours of the very warm and sunny day before arriving where she could make the find. Not all search dogs can be expected to do that. (4) I was surprised that not everyone knew how to recognize poison ivy; I hope no one discovered afterward via reaction that they had been through it. (No, poison ivy here does not look exactly like poison ivy in other climates.) (5) As long as there is any chance of the subject being responsive, search teams need to call frequently and listen for response...even if it means shutting off the engine of your ATV or snowmobile.

Members participating included Ron Anderson, Delinda Castellon, Francisco Castellon, Craig Damm, Jake Gillis, Chris Grant, Charlotte Gunn, Steve Huffman, Mike Johnson, Carolyn Lyon, Owen Miller, Jamie Simpson with Yoki, and Tom Wheless. Many thanks to our patient “lost hiker,” Linda Kearney.

HELP KEEP YOUR RECORDS STRAIGHT AND UP-TO-DATE
--LINDA KEARNEY

Please remember to turn in a copy of any certificates you receive so they can be placed in your folder. You can give them to me personally or there is a mailbox in the Office labeled for this purpose. Some of the following are examples:

Classes for which you received certificates	CPR training/renewal
Ham Radio operator	First Aid training/renewal
New Member pack check (completed and signed)	New Member activities sheet (completed and signed)

I'm sure there are lots more. If in doubt, turn it in. Thanks.

IT WAS A REAL FINE PARTY – DECEMBER 3, 2011
--CHARLOTTE GUNN

Randy Jordan arranged for us to use (free of charge) a large room. Linda Kearney, Michael Mancuso, Jamie Simpson and Lori Thompson volunteered as set-up committee and, with some help from Jimmie Yorgensen and Tom Kearney, they decorated the entranceway, set up service and eating tables, and created a winter lake complete with geese, a deer wearing an orange shabrack, Christmas trees and even Rescue Randy dressed as Santa. Very clever and very impressive!

Everyone showed up with food—so much food that it was impossible to sample even half of it—and so many people that a truck had to make a run to the Compound for additional tables and chairs.

Diane Mathews and I did our usual presentation of “awards” for various interesting, funny and/or embarrassing incidents during the year, and Rod Knopp then presented the serious awards. Due to some difficulties with shipping time and monogramming services, several recipients received W.O.U's (We Owe You) instead of the actual awards, but all will probably have the real things by the time you read the brief summary below:

Rookie-of-the-Year Award went to Jake Gillis for his enthusiastic and positive participation in just about every activity in 2011.

Bright-orange watch caps with the MRA logo and individual names went to:

Danny Cone for continuing work on vehicles as well as organizing the AFRCC class in Boise and participation on missions and public events.

Tom Kearney for mission and public event participation, work on vehicles, and overall willingness to step forward when something needed to be done.

Owen Miller for missions and training sessions, teaching public classes, and getting the Training Guidelines completed.

Tom Wheless for taking over the job of checking equipment that returns from use and getting it ready to go again, in addition to mission and training participation.

Blue work shirts, also with MRA logo and individual names went to:

Judd Ballard for deep involvement with the K9 team, teaching training sessions, responding to most missions, and pitching in on many other projects.

Charlotte Gunn for multiple background tasks, committee work, missions, work projects and helping

Charlotte Gunn for multiple background tasks, committee work, missions, work projects and helping teach skills to other agencies...and this newsletter.

George Gunn for work projects, arranging grants, teaching skills to other agencies, and generally being one of the “go-to” people for all sorts of questions and problems.

Linda Kearney for volunteering to do member I.D. cards and folders, long hours at the Corn Booth, training with both K9 and Mantracking teams, public service events, and unit training and missions.

Ann Moser for her professionalism on searches, including out-of-state when requested, public relations and fund-raising events, and continued contributions to the K9 team.

Gregg Rettschlag for participation in just about everything the unit does, especially missions and training. He is described as being “...one of the folks that I always hope will be there when the pagers go off.”

Jimmie Yorgensen for wide participation in missions, representing IMSARU to the public, enthusiasm in tracking (including successful use on a mission and, with Lori Thompson, setting up the Boise JHPTS class), lawn care and long hours at the Corn Booth.

Rod Knopp was not the presenter but the recipient of the last shirt, in appreciation of the long hours he spends as Coordinator, making decisions about and serving as in-town coordinator for most missions, as well as programming and organizing our radios both for the present and to prepare us for new protocols in the near future. Most of all, Rod knows SAR, knows Idaho and its personnel and resources, has wide contacts throughout ISSAR and MRA, and pulls all his knowledge and experience into what can only be described as SAR wisdom.

Training Director Mike Johnson also presented rockers to members who have advanced through the training program: Search Technician - Jamie Simpson; Rescue Technician - Gregg Rettschlag and Francisco Castellon; Search Specialist - Ann Moser. [Byron Wachtler received his Search Technician rocker at the meeting on December 6.]



Christmas Party Décor

—Photo by L. Kearney

INTERAGENCY AFRCC CLASS SPONSORED BY IDAHO MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT.

—Photo by D.Cone



Happy
Holidays



To
Everyone!