

WEB EDITION

RESCUE

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

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FOUNDING MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



ATV CRASH ON SHAFER BUTTE – JULY 28, 2012 --DANNY CONE

The witness saw what he first thought was a bear bounding down the slope at Bogus Basin, then realized it was an ATV, bouncing 30 to 50 feet at a time. He saw and heard no-one but reported the incident. Our pagers went off at 1814 hours and 12 of us headed up to meet Boise County Deputy Steve Turner at the lower Bogus Basin lot. We were asked to search the area for a possibly injured person who might or might not be there. Gregg and I sent 8 of our members up the steep hill on one side of the tracks for a hasty loose grid search, directing them to go up to the third tower and then to come back down the other side of the tracks before we lost all daylight.



Tom and I went to what would normally be called the PLS (point last seen) or LKP (last known point) but was in this case designated by a new acronym, the FRP (final resting place) of the ATV. It was about 1,000 feet from where it started; the debris field had ATV parts and pieces and supplies scattered over a steep, wide slope 300 yards long and 100 yards wide. At the ATV we looked for any body fluids, IDs or other clues to identify who owned it and whether someone was on it at the time; we could not find even a vin number.

The ATV had a broken winch cable wrapped several times around it but had no winch...hmm. Dan was the hero who eventually brought closure to the mission: As we are taught, you don't just look for a person; you look for clues. In the waist-deep grass and stinging nettles, Dan found a 3"x5" license plate; he radioed in the number, marked the location and retrieved it.

This ATV had a really bad day. —Photo by D. Cone

Deputy Turner soon had a phone number and an address near the bottom of Bogus Basin Road. He went to that location while we recalled our people out of the gathering darkness. We later learned that BOTH the subjects were OK but banged up a bit with an account of being thrown clear after the second roll. They said they had rolled two ATVs but retrieved one; that must have been the one with the winch. Deputy Turner described it as looking pretty much as mangled as the one still on scene...and he cited the two for leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident.

IMSARU members responding were Dominic Ali, Danny Cone, Jake Gillis, Dan Herring, Siw Lea, Amanda Leader, Mike Mancuso, Ann Moser, Tom Rand, Gregg Rettschlag, Jonathan Wheless and Tom Wheless. Danny and Gregg worked together as O.L.; Rod Knopp handled in-town coordination. NOTE: Eight of the responders had already worked at the triathlon earlier in the day. That's dedication!



Ski in the winter. Ride your ATV in the summer...but carefully.

—Photo by D. Cone

**MAN-TRACKERS
--KRIS SCOVEL**

Man-tracking is the art of learning to see what others look at but do not see: to recognize what human sign is and to understand that wherever a person travels on foot, he creates sign. We seek those subtle clues that indicate a person has passed through an area at the right time, in the right place, and with the right characteristics to be the one for whom we search. Some of those clues might include, but are not limited to, flagged or damaged vegetation, compressed areas from the footfalls, dislodged pebbles, scuffed dirt and broken twigs.

Tracking skills can prove instrumental in locating a direction of travel, thereby narrowing your search field dramatically. As one of our non-tracking-team members commented after a recent search, “When you have the Last Known Point, you have a 360-degree circle of search area; our trackers eliminated 359 of those degrees.”

Some IMSARU members have been spending long hours over several years, working toward their various certifications through the Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services training so that they may answer the call for those who are lost or missing. IMSARU’s certified trackers include: BASIC – Ann Finley, Carl Kidwell and Lori Thompson. APPRENTICE – Charlotte Gunn, Linda Kearney and Jimmie Yorgensen. JOURNEYMAN – Dan Scovel and Kris Scovel.

Special congratulations go to Linda and Jimmie, who earned and were awarded their Apprentice-level certification at the training course July 27-29! They have both put in years of training, missions, teaching and demonstrating their skills to receive this advancement.

**IMSARU SAFETY EDUCATION
--TOM KEARNEY, VICE PRESIDENT**

A significant part of IMSARU’s mission is to help educate the public on wilderness safety. As vice president, I am responsible for handling the classes. This does not mean that I participate in all of them, but rather I recruit members for the sessions.

The audiences can vary substantially. So far this year, we have given classes for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, a civic organization, a high school class, a wilderness group (including a map-and-compass class), an assisted-living group, a summer reading group and a kennel club, just to mention a few.

The content varies as well. In most cases we teach how to prevent becoming a “subject” for search and rescue, what to do if one becomes lost, as well as what one should take when leaving the highway. In some instances a K9 is requested so that we can talk about what IMSARU does and how the dogs are used.

These are actually quite a bit of fun to do. Any members interested in assisting with a class, please contact me. We can always use the help.

CORN BOOTH AT THE WESTERN IDAHO FAIR

AUGUST 17-26, 2012

The Fair opens on Friday, August 17, but we will have done a lot of work before that—cleaned and inventoried and packed the booth, its equipment and supplies; erected the booth at the Fairgrounds, passed inspections, scheduled volunteer workers, arranged the daily delivery of fresh corn and the disposal of all those shucks to a better place than the dumpsters; and a thousand other details. This project supplies about half our annual budget, so we take it very seriously and lots of people arrange their personal schedules so that they can work multiple shifts. All of our workers, including some who are not IMSARU members, are unpaid volunteers, doing their part to keep search-and-rescue ready to respond whenever and wherever needed. We buy the entrance tickets for our workers, but everything else is totally volunteer.

Be sure these dates are on your calendar:

Aug. 11 – 9 a.m. Set up booth at the Fairgrounds. (Drivers meet earlier at the Compound.)
This will take most of the day, and we need lots of people.

Aug. 12-16 Finish any set-up and adjustments needed. (Most of this will happen in the evenings.)

Aug. 17-26 The booth opens at noon each day. Workers on the day shift need to be there at least an hour before opening. We sell until at least 11 p.m. each night (except the 26th, when the Fair closes at 9 p.m.), later if the crowd is still there; the night shift also does clean-up.

Aug. 27 Take down the booth and return everything to the Compound. This will start at 1 p.m.; come to the Fairgrounds as soon as you can after work.

Aug. 28 – 7:30 p.m. Put away the booth for another year; followed by regular Business Meeting.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY COMMITTED YOURSELF TO WORKING AS MANY SHIFTS AS YOU CAN, CONTACT CAROLYN LYON IMMEDIATELY TO DO SO:
clyon87@gmail.com 880-3095

Members can also sign up on our Members lister. Family members, including teenage children, friends and neighbors are welcome. It's a great chance to see the Fair from a different perspective, and to get free samples of that delicious corn-on-the-cob.

FALLEN HIKER AT STACK ROCK—JUNE 30, 2012 —OWEN MILLER

On a warm Saturday afternoon, IMSARU was paged to respond to a fallen hiker at Stack Rock (the prominent rock spire, west of Bogus Basin, that is visible from many locations around the Treasure Valley.) A man in his forties, hiking with his wife (who turned out to be a doctor) had slipped and fallen while scrambling on the spire and was reported to have a head injury. En route to the Compound, I listened to State Comm and picked up traffic that Life Flight 74 had landed near the scene and was with the patient.

CALENDAR

- | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------|
| Aug. 7 | Finish loading Corn Booth and supplies | 7:30 p.m. |
| Aug. 11 | Set up Corn Booth at the Fairgrounds
This will take a large part of the day. If not finished, will continue on Aug. 12. | 9:00 a.m. |
| Aug. 12 | K9 Team Training IF Corn Booth is completed. | |
| Aug. 14 | NO MEETING at the Compound. May still need help at Corn Booth. | |
| Aug. 17-26 | Corn Booth at the Western Idaho Fair – Sign up for shifts! | |
| Aug. 27 | Take down Corn Booth – starting at 1 p.m.; come as soon as you can. | |
| Aug. 28 | Finish putting away Corn Booth, followed by Business Meeting. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 1-3 | K9 Team Training will be held out of town.
Contact Ann at 514-9265 or Judd at 830-5013 | |
| Sept. 4 | General Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 10 | K9 Handlers' Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| Sept. 11 | SAR Training | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 14-16 | In-house Tracker Training at Grayback Gulch Campground | |
| Sept. 18 | Medical Training | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 25 | Business Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 29-30 | Tentative - Mock Mission (as planned for July but cancelled by mission) | |
| Oct. 2 | General Meeting – ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2013
You must have paid 2013 dues in order to vote! (Remember that this past year we officially changed our dues year to October 1 – September 30.) | 7:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 9 | SAR Training | 7:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 16 | Medical Training | 7:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 23 | Business Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 30 | Board Meeting – 2012 and 2013 officers, please be present. | 7:30 p.m. |

At the Compound, we quickly loaded technical equipment into vehicles and departed rapidly for Bogus Basin parking lot to meet a National Guard helicopter for transport to the scene. Word was that the helicopter was already in the air, or would be shortly. Jake was already in the Bogus Basin area hiking, and met with Boise County Sheriff's Deputy Scott West early on.

Upon arriving at the parking lot, team members gathered equipment in anticipation of the helicopter's arrival. Owen met with Deputy West to put together a plan of action, and spoke by radio with the Life Flight crew on scene with the patient. This crew, although they had been able to scramble to the patient to begin treatment, expressed concerns about the difficulty of getting the patient down to level ground. We assured them of our technical abilities and that we could get him down.

Initial communications underestimated how long it would take the Guard helicopter to get on scene. Even with the later arrival time the decision was to wait as it would take less time than it would for us to hike to Stack Rock from the trailhead. Later information indicated that rather than a Blackhawk, a smaller Lakota would be responding and would be unable to transport our team to the accident site but was equipped with a hoist. Based on this new information, IMSARU members moved to the trailhead to effect a ground-based rescue before dark as a backup plan. As we were about to leave the trailhead and hike in, the UH-72 arrived on scene, circled Stack Rock and initially were unable to see the Life Flight crew in the shadows but were able to locate the crew with the victim after a short time. After some radio communications, we provided the Guard crew with a backboard and they conducted a flawless hoist rescue of the subject from the rock face.

They flew the patient to Bogus Basin parking lot, where we assisted in off-loading the subject. Gregg, in his role as an EMT with Boise County, performed a quick assessment along with the Guard medic. He provided the patient with some supplemental oxygen for pain management and to ease his nausea from the flight, Life Flight landed at Bogus, and we assisted their crew in loading the subject for transport to a Boise hospital. After the rescue, I stopped by the hospital to pick up our backboard. The subject was reported to be in good condition, with his head injury most likely a concussion and a laceration.

Lessons learned: We were reminded again that rescues are dynamic and bring communications and coordination challenges. We need to improve our understanding of other agencies' capabilities and limitations as well as communicate ours to them. Deputy West, as the IC, processed information as it developed and made appropriate decisions based on that information. All participants worked together as a team and successfully completed the rescue.
(Fallen Hiker at Stack Rock, cont.)

IMSARU members participating included Jake Gillis, Steve Huffman, Mike Johnson, Owen Miller (O.L.), Alisa Rettschlag, Gregg Rettschlag, Colin Seseck and Tom Wheless. In-town coordinators were Rod Knopp and Charlotte Gunn.

JHPTS TRAINING AT FAIRFIELD, IDAHO – JULY 27-29, 2012 --ALISA RETTSCHLAG

Six members from IMSARU participated in the Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services (JHPTS) training course in Fairfield, Idaho, sponsored by the Blaine County SAR. Located at

the scenic 40+ acre Intermountain Christian Camp, the camp host provided us with comfortable cabin accommodations or areas to park RVs and three nutritious and delicious meals a day while we all played in the woods, seeing, reading, and following sign (or tracks).

Members of several different Search and Rescue units from around Idaho and even from Colorado, as well as two fish and game officers, attended this course. The levels of ability ranged from Novice to Journeyman with our very own Dan and Kris Scovel being two of the instructors.

For the novices, we started at 0800 on Friday with a classroom session that explained the history of the program, the levels of certification, and the basics of tracking. After lunch, it was time to practice what we had learned in the morning session. The group was broken up into three-person teams. Sign lines had been made for us the day before, and every sign line started with a nice patch of dirt where two pristine prints were made. We drew the prints on our footprint card, measured the foot, set our tracking sticks for the foot length and started to track our "subject". We looked for compression in the size of the shoe, bruising on plants, fresh breaks on sticks, and oh-so-much more than the actual print of the shoe. We tracked into the night. On Saturday, we practiced this way all day. When we got stuck, the instructors seemed to always be lurking around and so would suddenly appear to help us out. By Sunday, we had started seeing bruising on leaves in the shape of a lug from the shoe or straight lines on grasses where straight lines should not be. Practice makes perfect. Well, almost. I learned a great deal about tracking but most importantly, I learned what I don't know. And now to continue practice tracking...

IMSARU members attending this course were Charlotte Gunn, Linda Kearney, Alisa Rettschlag, Dan Scovel, Kris Scovel and Jimmie Yorgensen.

MISSING MOTORCYCLIST – JULY 13-14, 2012 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

A 42-year-old male went missing on Tuesday, July 10, but there was no search area until a passerby saw his cycle parked near the intersection of 8th Street Extension and Boise Ridge Road very early on Friday, July 13. (Don't let the street names fool you; these are backcountry roads that require slow and careful driving; our work area was at an elevation near 5900 feet.) Boise County Sheriff's Office requested our help in locating the missing man and 17 IMSARU members responded on the first day, having quickly figured out that our Training Director was not just yanking our chains by advancing the starting time for our mock mission planned for the weekend.

We arrived on scene a bit before noon to meet with Chief Deputy Dale Rogers and Detective Larry Lampson; Gregg "volunteered" to be our O.L. while mantracking, K9, ATV and foot teams organized for field work. The cycle was a highway machine; it had shreds of vegetation caught in the foot pedals and dents in the metal that suggested it had gone off the road some 15-20 feet into a patch of now smashed vegetation and then been taken back up to the road. There was no ignition key.

After our briefing, two mantracking teams deployed first, one to follow a line of sign leading downhill from the assumed crash site and the other to follow a dirt track that circled around and below the slope, looking for sign that a person had exited the slope within the past 60-72 hours. K9 and foot teams then deployed through the same slope area as well as into some other nearby areas.

Since none of the original sweeps were successful, teams and assignments were reorganized by 3 p.m.: K9 teams of Linda and Cayenne, Ann and Watson, Judd and Zora, each with one or two additional people, headed out for their new areas. Trackers Dan, Charlotte, Jimmie and Alisa went back to the cycle crash site to re-set their eyes for aging the sign, then followed it east-northeast all the way down to the dirt track that circled below the slope. A foot team went to check an area farther east. Shortly before 6 p.m., the foot team found a white tee-shirt at a trail junction and reported that it did not look like it had been there for a long period of time.

Foot searchers and K9 teams on-site checked areas near location of tee-shirt but without further success. Once the shirt was brought back to base, the father of the missing man identified it as his son's and it was hard for searchers to leave the field without closure, but the I.C. had made the decision to have additional searchers wait until morning before coming up and our in-town coordinator had contacted those volunteers to stand down until 5:30 a.m....and all of the first-day searchers were out of the field before dark.

On Saturday, responders met at the Compound before daylight and headed back up to the top. This time the search focused on the area where the tee-shirt had been found, and where there were multiple choices of direction for travel. At one of many such decision points, Ann paused to decide which way to go; her dog Watson made the decision for her by taking off. When she caught up with him, he was lying beside the deceased subject (his trained response for HRD). Once it was established that nothing more could be done for the subject, searchers drew back and waited for the necessary officials to perform their duties. Some members then took our litter down to the scene and used it for the carry-out. Considering the amount of time that had elapsed before anyone had any idea of where to start a search, the ending was not unexpected,

but we always hope for a positive outcome. We offer our condolences to the family and friends.

IMSARU members participating one or both days were: Judd Ballard with K9 Zora, Aaron Carroll, Moises Chavez, Charlotte Gunn, Dan Herring, Steve Huffman with ATV, Mike Johnson, Linda Kearney with K9 Cayenne, Tom Kearney, Siw Lea, Amanda Leader, Bill Lindenau with ATV, Owen Miller, Ann Moser with K9 Watson, Alisa Rettschlag, Gregg Rettschlag, Dan Scovel, Kris Scovel, Colin Sese, Jamie Simpson with K9 Loki, Kimber Smith, Luke Sugden, Byron Wachtler, Jonathan Wheless, Tom Wheless, Everett Wood, Jimmie Yorgensen. Rod Knopp was in-town Coordinator the first day and part of the second; Charlotte took over in-town the last half of the second day.

Despite our sadness at the finish, this was a classic example of teamwork: Mantrackers determined the direction of travel; a foot team found the tee-shirt that was identified; ATVs ran roads and provided transportation; a K9 team made the actual find; the tech team had the equipment for the steep carry back up to the road; Gregg did a great job in his first turn as O.L.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Johnson Bookkeeping Service, LLC paid the cost of materials for the new roof on our Corn Booth for the Western Idaho Fair.

Boise Manufacturing/The Cover Shop donated the labor to manufacture the new roof for our Corn Booth.

Members who have tried to scrub the old roof covering clean, and all who have noticed the worn spots and general shabbiness of the old one, greatly appreciate the generosity of these two businesses.

Vincent and Judy Marsh made a cash donation to the unit.

Kenneth and Dianne Wiley made a cash donation in memory of George Gunn.

United Way of Northern Utah, acting for **Intermountain Combined Federal Campaign** has forwarded to us a generous check containing donations from individuals.

YourCause, LLC, Trustee for Hewlett-Packard has forwarded cash donations by employees and the company's matching donation.

Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All our members are unpaid volunteers, and we never charge the people for whom we search or whom we rescue. Those who make donations to our group are helping to make possible our response whenever and wherever needed. We thank you.

TRIATHLON SUPPORT – JULY 28, 2012 --DOMINIC ALI

It was another sweltering day in the Treasure Valley, perfect for the aspiring triathlete to test his or her mettle against fellow racers in Boise's newest endurance race, the Les Bois Off-road Triathlon! It was also a very technical and challenging course, beginning at the Lucky Peak Reservoir and winding its way up and down rugged canyons and around the desert at the Oregon Trail Recreation Area—not without hazards and extrication challenges were something to happen on remote parts of the course. Sixteen members of IMSARU volunteered their time on Saturday to be on hand in these areas for the mountain biking portion of the race.

Crew members pulled the command trailer to the race headquarters on Friday evening and traveled the course layout, stashing critical equipment at strategic locations with the most difficult access and installing the unit's portable repeater on the canyon rim overlooking the course. After a bright and early 6 a.m. briefing at the Compound and strong coffee, members piled into vehicles and rode out for deployment at the course. Three two-person teams were assigned to "the canyon," a particularly notorious and difficult-to-access stretch of trail descending through brush and a boulder field. A fourth team manned the repeater site and served as lookouts above the canyon; a fifth was stationed in 902 above another remote section; and a command team led by Mike was at race headquarters with the paramedics and race coordinators.

While there were a few rather spectacular tumbles, we were very fortunate that no participants were seriously hurt or required medical attention beyond a simple assessment. Communication proved to be one of the greatest challenges, as even the strategically placed repeater could not penetrate all parts of the canyon. This was addressed by bold members who scrambled up steep slopes to gain reception and serve as human repeaters. Volunteers also found themselves rushing to open gates just before the hardest of racers came screaming through.

For the most part, the event went very well and was a great opportunity for some of the newer unit members to spend some time with senior members and get to know their peers. It was a great member turnout. Thankfully, our extrication skills were not needed, but we gave the extremely busy race coordination team one less thing to worry about.

Thanks to the IMSARU members who participated: Dominic Ali, Delinda Castellon, Moises Chavez, Danny Cone, John Ferguson, Dan Herring, Mike Johnson, Siw Lea, Amanda Leader, Ross Mackintosh, David Oren, Tom Rand, Colin Sesek, Jamie Simpson, Jon Wheless and Tom Wheless.

[Editor's Note: Eight of these same members responded that same evening to the crashed ATV at Bogus Basin, and did not get home until close to midnight. That's dedication.]

ELT TRAINING, CLASSROOM AND FIELD – JUNE 12 & 16, 2012 --SIW LEA

On Tuesday, Frank Lester from the Idaho Division of Aeronautics presented information on Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs) and other beacons used to send distress signals. ELTs are specific to airplanes and are activated upon impact in a crash (if they aren't destroyed). He taught us about how they work, which frequencies are most commonly used, where and how the signals get transmitted, and how the information gets relayed to us or to other SAR groups.

We met at Bonneville Point on Saturday morning to actually put into practice what we learned in class. Mr. Lester and John Lorbeck (also from the Idaho Division of Aeronautics) taught us how to work the handheld receiving equipment to locate the transmitting beacon. We had three older versions and one digital one. Using the locating equipment, we were able to find the beacons with surprising accuracy.

After taking turns using the equipment and finding two beacons, we did a triangulation exercise where we split into two teams and a base camp. Using the starting location UTM's of both teams as well as their estimated direction of travel, the base camp used compass, map and triangulation to determine the estimated beacon location. Both teams in the field did a stellar job of locating the beacon. For a variety of reasons, the base camp crew was a bit off, but the exercise was excellent practice and taught us the importance of a good compass, accurate measuring devices (rulers and sharp writing utensils), as well as a map that is of the proper scale.

Members participating in the field exercise were: Judd Ballard, John Ferguson, Dan Herring, Mike Johnson, Linda Kearney, Tom Kearney, Siw Lea, Ann Moser, Jamie Simpson, Jon Wheless, Tom Wheless and Jimmie Yorgensen.

[Following the ELT training, most of us stayed for the K9 Teams' training session. The dogs did very well and made a lot of successful "rescues."]



—Photo by L. Kearney



Ann Moser with Watson
Air-scent

Congratulations to K9 Teams re-certified by NASDA!

Judd Ballard with Zora
Air-scent

