

# WEB EDITION

Vol. 42 Mar./Apr. 2009 No.2

# RESCUE

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Winter Shelters Training** -p. 1
- Info & Registration Form for  
Mantracking Class in June** -p. 5
- Helicopter Training** -p. 7

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

FOUNDING MEMBER:  
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE  
ASSOCIATION**



## SNOW SHELTERS TRAINING – FEBRUARY 14-15, 2009

--BRAD ACKER

Following up on the heels of, and using the skills learned in avalanche training and over-snow travel in January, the February training was snow shelters. We had a good turnout on Saturday morning as the group loaded gear, decided who was riding with whom and (more importantly) decided at what restaurant we were going to eat breakfast. The hands-down winner was AJ's Restaurant, mostly because it was on the way and because Bob said so, but also because the fine folks at AJ's bought us all breakfast the last time we were in! Stopping at AJ's was again a lucky decision. No, we didn't get our breakfast paid for this time, but we did find out that the road we wanted to take into the Trinity Mountains had just closed due to an avalanche. Bob, knowing that every good plan should be accompa-



Bob's ATV with treads impressed everyone.

—Photo by J. Gillis

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

nied by a backup, set the backup plan into effect. We were still going to head into the Trinitys, just a little farther to the west and hopefully by way of some roads with a little less avalanche exposure. So we headed up the road, dropped down past Anderson Ranch Reservoir, cruised down the Boise River, hopped over Rock Creek, climbed a few more hills, hung a right in Prairie and left toward the community hall, and pretty soon found ourselves at the end of the road and the start of our training.

Soon the parking lot was filled with packs, poles, skis and snow machines. The over-snow travel today was going to be mostly gas-powered, and a good thing too, because the area where we were headed is eleven miles in and mostly up. Lots of thanks to Jerry for bringing his snowmobile (on George Gunn's trailer), to Mark for bringing three snowmobiles, and to Bob ("the Tank Commander") for bringing his ATV outfitted with tracks. In addition, we had two sleighs and the inflatable Rapid Deployment Craft (RDC) outfitted with the snow travel harness and towing bars. [On a side note, the RDC has been a great rescue craft for us both on the snow and on the water. Thanks to Kris Walker, a former IMSARU member, for the donation and the invention of a great piece of rescue equipment. Check out his stuff at [www.oceanid.com](http://www.oceanid.com).]



The campsite—not entirely roughing it.

—Photo by J. Gillis

It didn't take long to get all the sleighs loaded and the first load of people and equipment on the way up to our ridgetop camping site. We unloaded the gear and headed back down to pick up the rest of the group. The ride down was not nearly as trouble-free as the way up. One of the sleighs, we lost twice. The first time, the receive pin popped out—an easy fix. The second time was not as forgiving: when Owen walked up to the sleigh and picked up the hitch, part of the snowmobile was still attached. After

we got that issue worked out, we headed down a little farther to find Bob working on the tow bars for the RDC. Lucky thing—we lost some parts that it turned out we did not really need. We eventually made it back to the parking area about two hours before dark and with a real good idea of what our spare parts list should look like. We loaded the rest of the group and headed back up.

We arrived at camp to find everyone working on their shelters. The snowdrift formed by the ridge was deep and dense enough to dig snow caves. John, Casey and Jeff dug a three-person cave. Owen and Patti dug a two-person, as did Tom and Brad. Jerry, David and Jacob all dug individual caves. Jacob, a VSAR member, must have really been paying attention in the classroom training. His cave was really nice, with shelves, room for gear storage, smooth arched sides and blocks ready to cover up the entrance.

After darkness fell we made dinner and hung out under a large weathered pine, sipping hot drinks and trying to figure out the locations of various lights in the valley. The night was comfortable and relatively warm in the caves.

In the morning we explored the area on skis, snowmobiles and snowshoes. At around eleven we packed up and started the journey back. John and Brad had skis and Casey a snowboard, so we slid down about halfway while the others machined out. Lucky for us, there were no more major sled or sleigh problems on the way out. To top off the weekend, we stopped in Prairie for a burger at the Y-Stop and got to see two perching bald eagles on the drive back to Boise.

IMSARU members participating were Tom Wheless, Mark Westerdoll, David Oren, Jerry Newland, Patti Miller, Owen Miller, Bob Meredith, Jacob Gillis (VSAR), John Ferguson, Jeff Ball, Casey Allen and Brad Acker.

## **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

The John William Jackson Philanthropic Gift Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation gave us a generous grant to purchase rescue equipment.

Individuals designated us as recipient of their donations to the United Way of Treasure Valley.

Employees of Hewlett-Packard donate to us via the company's charitable giving program, and Hewlett-Packard matches their gifts.

The Idaho Statesman conducted a charity auction and Justin Mack designated us as recipients of his winning bid.

The Caldwell Eagles Auxiliary 3691 sent a cash donation in memory of Dorothy Watson.

Mrs. Jean Whittle made a cash donation.

Mrs. Betty Robertson made a cash donation.

We thank all of the individuals and groups who help us remain prepared to respond whenever and wherever we are needed.

**CALENDAR**

April 10	Mantracking Training – Call George or Charlotte @378-7787	6:30 p.m.
April 14	Prep for Race to Robie Creek	7:30 p.m.
April 18	The Race to Robie Creek	All Day
April 19	K9 Training – Call Ann Moser @658-2273	
April 20	Technical Team Meeting	7:00 p.m.
April 21	SAR Training – Intro to Specialty Teams	7:30 p.m.
April 23	Mantracking Training – Call Jimmie Yorgensen @345-1450	
April 25	Technical Team Field Training – Winter Mountaineering - Time & Place TBA	
April 27	K9 Handlers Meet	6:30 p.m.
April 28	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
May 1-3	Nevada SARCON in Fallon, Nevada	
May 2	Work Day at the Compound – Lunch will be provided.	9 a.m.
May 2	K9 Training – Call Kim Juda @395-1054	
May 4	Technical Team Meeting	7:00 p.m.
May 5	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
May 7	Mantracking Training – Call Ann Finley @336-1485	
May 12	SAR Training – Map & Compass	7:30 p.m.
May 15-17	Washington State SARCON, with pre-conference classes starting May 13	
May 16	SAR Field Training – Map & Compass	Time & Place TBA
May 19	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
May 23-25	Technical Team Field Training—Snow Climb	Time & Place TBA
May 26	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
June 1	Technical Team Meeting	7:00 p.m.
June 2	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
June 6-7	Mantracking Class in McCall – See article in this issue.	
June 9	SAR Training – GPS Navigation	7:30 p.m.
June 13	SAR Field Training – GPS Navigation	Time & Place TBA
June 16	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
June 20	Technical Team Field Training – 5 <sup>th</sup> Class Climbing	Time & Place TBA
June 23	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
June 30	NO MEETING SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME—STAY TUNED.	

**16-HOUR MANTRACKING CLASS – JUNE 6-7, 2009  
PILGRIM COVE CAMP – MCCALL, IDAHO**

**This class is designed for:**

1. Anyone who wants to spend some structured time improving their tracking skills.
2. People who think they might like to do mantracking but are hesitant to spend hundreds of dollars on a first class.
3. People in Joel Hardin's tracking program, for whom these will count as in-house hours.

**Instructors** will be journeymen in the Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Program.

**Class Times:** Saturday – 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. or so (including night tracking)  
Sunday – 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the latest

**Cost** is \$40. This includes continental breakfast Saturday morning plus camp meals through Sunday lunch, and lodging Saturday night.

If you arrive on Friday, the extra night's lodging costs \$21.

If you choose to purchase a manual, the cost is \$10. (You have to tell us ahead of time so we know how many we need to have available.)

**For more information or to register:**

Contact Charlotte Gunn at [cpgunn@cablone.net](mailto:cpgunn@cablone.net) or 208-378-7787 or  
Charlotte Gunn, IMSARU, 2519 Federal Way, Boise, ID 83705

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 15 OR WHENEVER 25 PEOPLE  
HAVE REGISTERED, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.**

**REGISTRATION FORM: (Please Print)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Certification Level in Joel Hardin's Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to arrive on \_\_\_\_ Friday (\$21 extra fee) or \_\_\_\_ Saturday

Want to purchase a manual (cost is \$10) \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

**YOUR \$40 FEE MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR REGISTRATION. EXTRA  
FEES FOR FRIDAY NIGHT AND/OR MANUAL CAN BE PAID ON SITE.**

Will send details on camp, etc. after receipt of your registration.

## **UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW**

### **Mantracking Class in McCall June 6-7**

See information and registration form on previous page. The class is about half full at press time, so don't delay if you want to take advantage of this opportunity.

### **Corn Booth at the Western Idaho Fair**

Dates this year are August 21-30. Preliminary work is already under way; we will need and welcome lots of help as the time gets closer.

### **Celebration of IMSARU's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

We will be having a party in September to celebrate IMSARU's long-term volunteer service. Exact date has not yet been set, but if you are a former member of IMSARU or if you know someone who is a former member, please contact Rick Thompson at 2519 Federal Way, Boise ID 83705. We need your name, approximate dates when you were a member (but don't let that stop you if you can't be exact), means of contact (U.S. Mail or email address), and whether you would be interested in attending such a celebration in September.

## **HELICOPTER TRAINING – MARCH 21, 2009 --CHARLOTTE GUNN**

The Idaho Army National Guard generously set up a training opportunity and we gladly took advantage of it—about forty IMSARU members plus personnel from Elmore County SAR, Malheur County SAR, the Boise County Sheriff's Office and Idaho City Ambulance. The Guard prepared meticulously, with six different stations for us to become acquainted with topics such as loading and unloading safely, landing zone needs and procedures, the Apache helicopter with its FLIR vision, the Blackhawk with its interior setup and features, the hoist feature with the penetrator and the big cages for large loads, the operations center, what the Guard can do to help with SAR missions and what they need from those of us on the ground.

With a better understanding of what those fantastic machines can and cannot do, we were ready for the grand finale of an actual ride in the Blackhawks. First, the canine handlers practiced hot loads with their three dogs. None of the dogs had any major hesitation about getting on and off that noisy, windy machine...but all three made it obvious that they were anxious to get those goggles off as soon as they could. People then loaded in groups of nine or ten, and flew out over the reservoir and desert. For many, it was their first time in a helicopter, and most came back with big grins.

Many, many thanks to the Idaho Army National Guard, to CW4 Robert Briggs and the many other Guard personnel who spent their day educating us. We already knew we were in their debt for hoisting out the two boys whose sledding adventure went awry on January 31 and February 1 and our three rescuers who found them. Now we are even more in their debt but also better prepared for our roles in any future SAR collaborations. P.S. It was great to see again our former IMSARU member Dave Henry.



Scenes from our day with the Idaho Army National Guard.

—Photos by C Kidwell & T. Wheless



Kiwi preparing for helicopter hoist training.



Jerry is hard at work on our Command Post trailer.

—Photo by G. Gunn