

# WEB EDITION

# RESCUE

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

FOUNDING MEMBER:  
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE  
ASSOCIATION**



## TECHNICAL TEAM TRAINING – APRIL 25, 2009 --DANNY CONE

We met at the Compound at 9 a.m. and headed up to Bogus Basin to practice ice ax self-arrest and snow anchors. We condensed our gear into comparatively light packs and loaded the unit gear on Bob's tracked ATV, then started up the trail. I was having problems breathing with the pack squeezing on my chest, due to a load of plywood falling on me two weeks previously and cracking/bruising a rib or two, so was happy when Bob took my pack up and then came back for anyone who wanted to ride.

At the ski hill we unloaded all gear and packs, and what a nice day we had for this! We started doing feet-first slides and anchoring with the ice ax for self-arrest, then went to a little steeper hill because some of us weren't sliding fast and free enough due to types of clothing. Next we slid down head-first on our backs...and I had thought feet-first was thrilling! Anyway, we were to slide, deploy the ax, swing around, roll over, spread our  
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Practice this BEFORE you need it.

-Photo by D. Cone

**SARCON & JOEL HARDIN TRACKING CLASS  
LEWIS COUNTY, WA -- MAY 13-17, 2009  
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

It's a long drive to Randle, WA, over the Blues to Pendleton, the tri-cities and on to Yakima, where you leave the interstate and take Route 12 over White Pass (only 4,500 feet high but snowing on us) and down into the valley, then a dirt track several miles to the Dragon's Sphere Park. Intriguing name, yes?

It's the site of an annual Renaissance Fair as well as other gatherings, in a valley between high hills, with a large permanent structure that served us as dining hall and acres of green. Why so green? Because it rains, of course.



Dan talks about mission in Japan. -Photo by D. Cone

The tracking course started with morning class in one of the big tents, then an afternoon of field work in intermittent rain. There was great relief when Joel announced that the weather forecast had prompted them to postpone the night tracking until Thursday instead of Wednesday. As we listened to the rain on our various roofs throughout the night, we were happier and happier to be snug in our tents, RVs and motel rooms. The

weather cooperated for the remainder of the course, but did I mention that the field site was a clearcut? No, not one that had been cleaned up; this one was totally strewn with piles of slash. Those of us who already had our Basic certification were put into two teams with the assignment to find where people had left the "road," follow them and figure out what they did. We couldn't always maintain the standard three-person V-shaped team, but we did manage to scramble over an amazing number of logs, brushpiles and muddy slopes without breaking any bones...and staying on track most of the time. It was challenging and satisfying.

The SARCON began midday on Friday and ran through Sunday, with multiple classes and activities happening simultaneously. You could choose a track (canine, technical, medical, etc.) or simply attend the individual sessions that appealed to you. For a couple of examples, I enjoyed the class on Wildlife Dangers to Searchers, perhaps because it repeated what we already know: You are fighting for your life if a cougar or bear actually attacks you...but you are much more likely to die of bee stings and other non-glamorous dangers than to become a meal for a large carnivore. And the instructor for Evidence Search presented basic points, then took us out to an area where "evidence" had been planted for hands-on review of how and where to look plus what to do when you see something.



Lovely terrain for tracking.

-Photo by L. Kearney

The location miles away from any urban area meant that the traditional Saturday night parade could be as raucous and flashy as desired, and it was a hoot. Horns honked, sirens blew, lights flashed and twirled, the lighted Christmas tree went by on an ATV, and Santa Claus with a horned hat hung off the back of a truck. Danny represented IMSARU while others tried unsuccessfully to get photos.

IMSARU members attending included Ann Finley, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Linda Kearney, Irene Kimball, Dan Scovel, Kris Scovel (all taking the pre-conference tracking class, with Dan and Kris working as instructors), Danny Cone (taking the Lost Person Behavior pre-conference class) and Wade Kimball. And while it is true that the Gunn RV came home wearing four new tires, only one of the old ones actually blew out.

### **STRANDED SNOWMOBILERS ON PILOT PEAK – APRIL 4-5, 2009 —CHARLOTTE GUNN**

We received the page from Boise County at 2118 hours on Saturday night. A father and his two sons (ages 12 and 14) were snowmobiling in the Pilot Peak area when one of the boys got his machine stuck. When his brother and father went down to help him, they ended up with three stuck machines. Fortunately, they knew where they were and were able to walk an estimated mile to the communications building on the mountain. Also fortunately, they had cellphone coverage and called 911 to report their location, stating that they had cold wet feet. They then broke the lock and entered the building to wait. The father was also able to call his wife before his phone battery died, and Boise County confirmed that the pickup and trailer were at Mores Creek Summit parking lot.

Seven of our people responded to the field, together with three experienced snowmobilers who have helped us before. Idaho City Ambulance also responded, to be available in case of need. Our snowmobilers reached the stranded subjects shortly before 0200, confirmed that they were cold but uninjured, and took them back down to the parking lot, where the wife/mother and her father awaited.

Wouldn't it be nice if all missions shared some of the conveniences of this one—the stranded people were together, knew exactly where they were, called 911 with correct information, found a sheltered place to wait for help; it was the weekend and our team had enough people and the right resources to go pick them up unharmed? We'd have nothing to complain about except the late hour. And how unusual a year is it when our first snowmobile rescue happens in April?

IMSARU participants included Collin Garner with snowmobile, Chris Harry, Rod Knopp (in-town coordinator) Bill Lindenau, Clint Matthews, Jerry Newland (O.L.), Tom Wheless and Everett Wood. Valuable additions to the team were Tobey Ashley, Kyle Hansen and Matt Hansen with their snowmobiles.

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legs and stop. We all stopped but some did it with a lot better form than some older, bigger, out-of-shape people like this writer. It was a great training.

We then went down and built several different snow anchors, using ice axes, flukes and pickets. We built a four-gang equalizing hitch with the flukes and then decided we were going to blow it out to see how strong it was. We hooked up Bob's tracked ATV; he tried and he tried but couldn't blow this anchor apart. Talk about strong snow! All he did was dig holes, but you could see the system load and could see about 1% stretch of the system—very impressive.

IMSARU members attending were Brad Smith, Josh Nichols, Bob Meredith, Aimee Hastriter, John Ferguson, Jeff Ball and Danny Cone.

## **MAP & COMPASS FIELD TRAINING – MAY 17, 2009** **--CHRIS HARRY**

Is there anything better to do on a gorgeous Sunday morning than to practice map and compass? Field training this month was moved to Sunday, due to the Potato Race on Saturday; nonetheless the turnout was good. A handful of IMSARU members were joined by several people from Silver City Fire and Rescue at Bonneville Point for some hands-on experience. The focus was finding yourself on the map when you don't know where you are.

The first exercise was triangulation, finding points on the map which you can see and taking a bearing on them. A few people figured out the importance of properly allowing for declination when the lines they drew on the map weren't making any sense. It was also discovered that sometimes it can be difficult to know what you're looking at and identify it on the map, or vice versa. After a few attempts and instruction along the way, everybody was able to pinpoint our location.

The next thing we discussed was how to use the sun along with the hands of a properly set clock to get our bearings. This is a useful tool but you will be 180 degrees off if you don't do it properly. It makes a big difference whether it is before or after 12:00 P.M. Once we worked through this minor glitch, everyone found that it actually works rather well.

The last thing we discussed was how get your bearing off the stars. Though we obviously couldn't practice this on a bright sunny morning, it's still good to know. We all got at least some idea of how to do it. We also discussed how to deal with all of the above when visibility is less than desirable due to weather conditions.

Overall we had a lot of fun and look forward to the June GPS training in which Silver City Fire and Rescue will again participate. This is a good opportunity to get to know some of our neighboring emergency service people.

Many thanks to guest instructor Mike McCoy for teaching this class.

**CALENDAR**

June 9	SAR Training – GPS Navigation – David Gomez	7:30 p.m.
June 13	SAR Field Training – GPS Navigation	Time & Place TBA
June 13	K9 Training – Call Linda Kearney at 321-1175	
June 16	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
June 17	Strategic Planning Committee – Followup session (For those who participated in first meeting)	6:30 p.m. At the Compound
June 23	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
June 27	K9 Training – Call Tom Kearney at 321-1175	
June 30	NO MEETING SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME – KEEP IN TOUCH	
July 7	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
July 10-12	ISSAR summer meeting at Island Park	
July 13	K9 Handlers' Meeting—open to everyone.	6:30 p.m.
July 14	SAR Training – Water Crossing Safety	7:30 p.m.
July 18	SAR Field Training – Water Crossing Safety	Time & Place TBA
July 21	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
July 24-26	JHPTS Tracking Class in Stanley, ID – See info in this issue.	
July 28	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 4	Clean & Inventory Corn Booth Supplies & Equipment	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 11	Load Corn Booth Supplies & Equipment	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 15	Set up Corn Booth at Fairgrounds	9:00 a.m.
Aug. 16	Finish setting up Corn Booth, if necessary	10:00 a.m.
Aug. 21-30	Corn Booth at the Western Idaho Fair Call Diane Mathews at 375-3671 to sign up for shifts.	10 a.m. – Midnight
Aug. 31	Take down Corn Booth. Come to Fairgrounds as soon as you can after work.	

**MAN MISSING FROM CAMEL'S BACK PARK AREA -- APRIL 7, 2009  
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

The Boise City Police received a report that a man had not been seen for several days and had not arrived when scheduled to pick up his children. The house, near Camel's Back Park in north Boise, was unlocked and the missing man's wallet, keys, etc. were there. The assumption was that he had gone hiking on one of the trails in the area. The Boise P.D. asked us to arrange a search plane and to send someone to the park to coordinate communications. Their bike patrol officers went out to cover the trails.

George set up his base in the park; Jerry (of the Ada County Aerial Sheriffs) volunteered to fly; Tom and Clint rode as observers. This park and the surrounding foothills area are heavily used for everything from Frisbee and kite-flying to hiking and dog-walking. Many of those present during the search were wondering about the low-flying plane that passed multiple times, and of course those who asked were in turn requested to keep their eyes open for the missing man. As of this printing, we have no further information except that his family is still hoping to find him.

IMSARU participants were George Gunn, Tom Kearney and Clint Matthews. Jerry Terlisner was the pilot.

**IF THIS IS JUNE, WHAT ARE WE PLANNING FOR AUGUST?**

A dumb question, yes? Selling corn at the Western Idaho Fair earns the major part of our budget for the year. It's a huge investment of time and energy, but it does pay off. And if everyone does his/her share, we all survive. Advance preparations have been under way for months: contract with the Fair Board, making sure we have hard-to-find supplies like the skewers, people volunteering for key jobs. Chris Harry will again supervise the set-up and take-down of the booth. Diane Mathews will, for the third year in a row [gold star on her chart!] schedule the volunteer workers. Charlotte Gunn is handling paper work and ordering supplies. The calendar in this issue lists dates for major work parties, and we hope a lot of members will help...and that a few of you will get involved in learning the major jobs in preparation for the time when 'the usual people' say it's someone else's turn.

Wade Kimball is arranging for us to borrow the same big truck as last year. In addition, we need another large truck (bigger than a pickup) or large trailer to haul parts of the booth to the Fairgrounds and then back home again. Call Chris Harry 409-2407 if you have a truck or trailer for this task.

It's not too soon to start checking your calendar and talking to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers about signing up for shifts, either 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 5 p.m. to closing (between 11 p.m. and midnight). We also use some swing shifts to cover the early part of the dinner hour before the night crew can get there. It's a great chance to have fun while working for a worthy cause, and we need lots of help.

## MEMORIAL DAY CLIMB – MAY 23-24, 2009

--BRAD ACKER

The Tech Team headed out for their annual Memorial Day climb, which turned out to be part Kenny Rodgers and part Rachel Ray. We had a good showing with eleven people. Our goal was a couple of the peaks in the Lost River Range--The Golden West.

I'm sure you're wondering, so I'll start out with the Kenny Rodgers part. Soon after we made the long drive to camp the rain started. The good part was we got all the tents and kitchen set up before it started. The bad part was the rain did not stop. With the snow still heavy in the upper elevations, and having been holding our cards all night, we decided it was time to fold'em. We decided to take advantage of what turned out to be a short gap in the showers to pack up camp. The night's rain had made the road a bit slicker and river crossings a bit deeper. Turns out the deeper crossings worked out in our favor as Josh needed the hood of his truck washed. It could have been from when Jeff got stuck (momentarily) on a greasy uphill climb. We were soon off the rock crawling section and on to standard gravel roads...the same gravel roads that claimed two flat tires in a previous visit to this area. Needless to say, we were happy to get back to the pavement.

On to the Rachel Ray section of this story and what turned out to be the high points of our trip, FOOD-three great meals! On the way up to the Lost River Range, when the weather was still beautiful, we passed through Arco, you know, the first city in the world to be lit by atomic power, ya that Arco. So anyway, needing to seat eleven folks we passed by the great BBQ at Grandpa's, hung a right at the tee, motored past Pickles Restaurant (always a good one) and landed at The Golden West Café. The Golden West was able to get all of us around one big, round table. It wasn't long before we were surrounded by burgers, chicken strips, finger steaks and of course Patty had her melt. (Sorry, Patty; I had to say it). The food and service were great, separate checks and all.

Tummies full and ready to get into the mountains we loaded up and headed down the road. Still under blue skies, we passed though Howe and started two hours of gravel roads. It wasn't long after the first river crossing that skies started to turn and the first sprinkles fell. Bob found a good shortcut and we made it to camp a little early.

After the tents were up it was time to get ready for meal number two. Bob and Chris brought steaks, chicken and salmon. Josh made his now famous "beer bottle" mashed potatoes, and Aimee made that corn bread she had been craving for two weeks, now known as the "two week cornbread". If that doesn't all sound good enough we ended up with some great chocolate brownies provide by Phil. By the time dinner was finished the rain had already been falling for an hour; by bedtime it was still coming down. Needing to get a 4:00 a.m. start for any hopes of ascending on hard snow, we decided if the rain was still falling at that time we would need to "fold'em" on this climb. Sure enough, it rained on and off all night and we all slept in.

Well, you all know we made it out just fine and by early afternoon on Sunday we were headed for Mackay and our featured meal number three at Amy Lou's Steakhouse. Not being just about food, we did stop at the roadside historical site along the fault line of the 1983 Mt. Borah earthquake. It was at this stop we decided we needed to eat in Mackay; Arco was just too far away. Amy Lou's Steakhouse turned out to be a great choice because even though we were not able to make the climb we could all eat Mt. Leatherman burgers, or the Mt. Breitenbach burger. I opted for the Mt. Leatherman, mostly because of the bacon. So even though the weather turned us back on the climb, we sure ate well!

Participants were Phil Sander, Josh Nichols, Christy Nichols, Patty Miller, Owen Miller, Chris Meredith, Bob Meredith, Aimee Hastreiter, John Ferguson, Jeff Ball and Brad Acker.

## **SPRING CLEANING AT THE IMSARU COMPOUND – MAY 2, 2009** **--MICHAEL MANCUSO**

It was a beautiful day. For a duck. Saturday, May 2, was spring cleaning day at the IMSARU compound. It also happened to be a day of record-breaking rainfall for the date in Boise. Despite waking up to heavy clouds and the sound of rain, ten people showed up at 9 am to begin the day's festivities. The most heated competition was for the honor of cleaning the bathroom—Linda won. Other fun chores included cleaning the refrigerator, cleaning the upholstered meeting room chairs, and removing problem elms and associated brush. A cleaning and reorganization of the corn booth storage room resulted in one of the most amazing transformations of the day – courtesy of Jacob Gillis. It is now possible to enter the storage room without risk of bodily harm. Approximately 800 pounds of old furnaces, water heater, and other metal taken to Pacific Recycling netted \$30.00 for the IMSARU coffers. All told, 15 of 23 items on the “to do” list were checked off during the day. Most were completed before an early afternoon lunch.

Everett Wood presided over the BBQ grill, serving up choices of beef, turkey, and boca burgers. Charlotte's delicious homemade chocolate cake completed the menu. The weather gods were kind enough to provide a break in the rain over the lunch hour, including moments of sunshine. The good company made it easier to do chores hard enough to make yourself do at your own home, no less somewhere else. Thank you to Jeff Ball, Jacob Gillis, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Aimee Hastreiter, Linda Kearney, Tom Kearney, Ann Moser, and Everett Wood for getting lots done, all with good cheer. Special gratitude to Jeff Ball for the use of his pickup truck for trips to the landfill transfer station, Pacific Recycling, and Treetop Recycling. The last of the cleaning crew left around 3 pm, just as another deluge rolled in from the west.

Weather conditions left several outdoor chores undone. A sign-up sheet for these chores will be posted at the compound and can be done at your convenience.

[Editor's Note: One big reason why so much was accomplished was that Michael did the preparation—talked with various members about things that needed to be done, had the list ready, and had all the supplies available. Thanks, Michael, for such great organization. And anyone interested in the story of the new ceiling light in the bathroom can ask the work crew....]

## **50 YEARS IS A LONG TIME, SO LET'S CELEBRATE**

Search-and-rescue teams come and go over the years. It is extraordinary when a volunteer group stays active for half a century, and we are proud to be extraordinary. This September, we want to celebrate our 50 years as Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, and we hope there are former members who will come to Boise and join this celebration. If you are a former member but can't attend, we'd still like to hear from you—a letter, photo, video with some news of when you were here, a special memory of that time, and what you've been doing since then.

Aimee Hastreiter is chairing this event, so call her at 208-870-3498 or send her a note c/o IMSARU, 2519 Federal Way, Boise ID 83705 for more information.

## **RACE TO ROBIE CREEK – “THE BLUE PERIOD” – APRIL 18, 2009 --CHARLOTTE GUNN**

As usual, weather in the weeks preceding the race kept us guessing at what conditions would be. Also as usual, the race committee had everything planned and organized. New for IMSARU were use of our almost-completed Command Post trailer at the finish line, our new repeater at the summit, and the new battery in 901 welding itself to the inside of the hood. Apparently the battery hold-down was loose enough, the road up was rough enough, and the metal hood vibrated enough that battery terminal and hood bumped together and stayed together. Our first surprise was when one of our volunteers at the highest first-aid station flagged Dan and me down to say that Chris (following close behind us in 902) had been trying to call us on the radio; our radios were dead. The second surprise was when Chris tried to open the hood and discovered the weld. The third surprise was when Chris managed to get the hood open, shut off the switch for the electrical system...and the radios worked again.

Fortunately, Chris traded vehicles with us, helped us set up the new repeater, and coaxed 901 back down to the finish line, where it waited for a tow after the race ended. The next day, Danny Cone arranged for his friends at Sun-Ray Towing to tow 901(without charge) to his shop in Ontario, where Danny volunteered his labor and his talent for getting parts at discount prices to put our truck back on the road again.

Meanwhile, the race functioned smoothly. We had lots of volunteers manning the usual stations along the racecourse and plenty of people to both do first aid in our big tent at the finish line and to patrol the park and bus line for racers who were not feeling well. Most of our business was minor—moleskin, Vaseline, etc. It wasn't until near the end that we had three calls going at once: one injury on the downhill side and two people straggling somewhere on the uphill side. (It took a bit to realize there were three, as the reports came from other racers and were a bit vague on where to look for the persons who needed help.) Kim and Clint found the woman who already had a heart attack in her recent history, took vital signs, etc. and stayed with her until the paramedics arrived on their Gator, which they used to transport both of the “uphill side” patients to where the ambulance could meet them.



Ready for business at the finish line.

-Photo by L. Thompson

Many thanks to all those who gave their Saturday to help make this event run smoothly again, including the Race to Robie Creek Committee, the Mores Creek Ambulance staff, the Ada County Paramedics, personnel from the Boise County Sheriff's Office, and the park rangers. If you want to know how far you have to drive from the summit to get cellphone coverage (to call a tow truck), ask Dan S. And you can also ask Jimmie Y. and John F. about the fireman's carry at the finish line park.



## **TRACKING STEP BY STEP... JOEL HARDIN PROFESSIONAL TRACKING SERVICES**

225 Mill Road, Clearwater, Idaho 83552-5116 208-926-4390 joel@jhardin-inc.com www.jhardin-inc.com

# **JHPTS TRACKING COURSE ALL TRAINING LEVELS**

**DATE & TIME:** 8:00 a.m., Friday July 24, through 2:00 p.m., Sunday July 26

**LOCATION:** Camp Perkins (Hwy 27/Lake Alturas Road), Stanley, Idaho

**COST:** \$300

**MEALS & ACCOMMODATIONS:** Dormitory-style accommodations (bring your own bedding); camping/RV allowed on site. Eight meals provided, starting with 7:00 a.m. breakfast on Friday through lunch on Sunday.

**COURSE CONTENT:** There are NO prerequisites for this training. All interested law enforcement and SAR personnel are invited to attend. This will be a 24-hour course, beginning with lecture and PowerPoint presentation to provide Novice and Basic trackers understanding of training methodology, techniques and procedures. Field training will allow “student tracking team” experimentation and hands-on practice of fundamental tracking techniques. This is also a skill development training program for Apprentice and Journeyman tracker students. All students will be provided training at an appropriate level for their development and upward progress.

**STUDENT NEEDS:** Students should be physically fit and equipped for SAR field response. Field practice will continue during any inclement weather, and will include night tracking, so students should be prepared with wet/dry/hot/cold-weather gear. Each student needs to bring a pen or pencil, note pad, small measuring tape, tracking stick (5/8-inch doweling or similar, 36 to 40 inches long, or trekking stick, or ski pole with basket removed, etc.), three rubber bands, and a three-cell flashlight.

**REGISTRATION:** Students must pre-register for this course with a non-refundable \$100 deposit. Send your deposit to JHPTS, c/o Annie Pillers, P.O. Box 166, Palouse, WA 99161-0166. You can also contact her at [annie@jhardin-inc.com](mailto:annie@jhardin-inc.com) if you need to check on space available. If you have any questions regarding the class or location, please contact Mark Sheehan via email at [mrsheehan@cox.net](mailto:mrsheehan@cox.net).

**SPONSOR INFORMATION:** This course is sponsored by Blaine County SAR and Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit (IMSARU).