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# RESCUE

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

MEMBER:  
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE  
ASSOCIATION**  
SINCE 1960



## **MISSING PERSON SEARCH, SEPTEMBER 25-26 --CHARLOTTE GUNN**

A 38-year-old female flight attendant checked into a Garden City hotel early on the afternoon of September 24. She was last seen at about 3 p.m. and was presumably going for a walk at that time. When she was reported missing the next day, Garden City Police asked us to help search the Greenbelt. Responding in the early evening were: Brad Acker, Rick Cudd, Pam Green with Inca, Charlotte Gunn with Hobo, George Gunn (O.L.), Jason Haugen, Chris Karnes, Paula McCollum with Jeb, Jerry Newland, Leslie Robertson with Mingo, and Tom Wheless.

Paula asked Jeb (our only trailing dog) to try to pick up the scent at the hotel and establish a direction of travel. After they cleared the area, one team of dog plus two people worked the south side of the river, westward from the hotel. The other two teams of dog plus three people started from Veterans' Memorial Park and worked eastward toward the hotel, with one team north of the river and the other on the south side.

Sounds easy, yes? Everyone knows the Greenbelt—mostly asphalt trail, quite level; little kids and grandparents walk and bike and skate it every day. However, when you start to search you quickly realize how much area is beside the trail. In many places, there are islands that may or may not be connected by bridges, side channels, swamps, steep banks, multiple side trails that lead to little beaches or thick bush or transient camps. And anyone whose casual wardrobe needs replenishing can choose from an assortment of jeans, sweats, tee-shirts, socks and unmentionables scattered throughout. As darkness fell, so did our POD (probability of detection). We completed our assigned sweeps before stopping for the night, but did not feel all had been thoroughly searched.

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## TRAINING WITH MCCALL FIRE DEPARTMENT DIVE TEAM SEPTEMBER 30, 2000 --BY CHARLOTTE GUNN

It's hard to match up schedules for two groups to train together, but well worth the effort. IMSARU and the McCall Dive Team have worked many of the same drownings, and all agreed we could help each other more if we knew each other better. Since **they** have the lake, we drove up to Ponderosa Park. About half a dozen people from each unit met in our "classroom" at the picnic area beside the boat ramp.



Learning from each other in our outdoor classroom.

We did a GPS exercise in the parking lot to illustrate how the GPS helps in marking locations and what its limitations are. Rod printed out a sample of multiple points marked on a map, and we shared printouts of dog alerts at Deadwood Reservoir earlier this year. Each group then talked about how it searches an area—with divers or with dogs—and we shared ideas on how we can help each other.

Two of the dive team bravely volunteered to go into the cold water for a demonstration of how we train our dogs for water search and how they work. Mingo and Hobo were delighted to work from the variety of boats—Rod's Boston Whaler, Kris's inflatables, the dive team's wonderful pontoon boat with flat bow platform and wide flat gunwales—as these dogs enjoy playing with divers. We worked close to the docks so that all could see what the dogs were doing, including how differently they do it. At the same time, the divers were demonstrating to us their underwater communications gear and their constant concern for safety.

It was an excellent day, and all IMSARU participants came away feeling we have a much better understanding of how the divers do their job—and we are eager to work together in the future. We thank the McCall Fire Department Dive Team members for joining us, and Ponderosa Park for providing the facilities. IMSARU members present included George and Charlotte Gunn with Hobo and young Xena, Chris Karnes, Rod Knopp with his boat, Leslie Robertson with Mingo, Martha Vandivort with novice Angie, Kris Walker with his boats, Tom Wheless and son Jonathan. We were all disappointed that Gene and Sandy Ralston were unable to join us and demonstrate their side-scan sonar, but they were locating a drowned person in Bear Lake.



Hobo working from the McCall boat. The dogs loved this craft.

Note: Did you know that five members of this dive team have trained for ice diving? Are they crazy or what?

(Greenbelt Search for Missing Person - continued from page 1)

On September 26, most of the same crew assembled in late morning for a police briefing before continuing the search. (Brad and Paula had to work, though Paula joined us later after Pam had to leave for her job. Jerry was diverted to fly as observer for a lost hunter in the Deadwood area; fortunately that missing teenager was found before we had to split our searchers and send half of them into the mountains. David Hay, Craig Jones and Kris Walker joined our teams for the second day.) Jason in his kayak and Kris in his small raft went on the water to search shallow and narrow areas where the Boise Fire Department would not likely have been able to navigate during their Monday search. The rest of us re-searched the portions of the Greenbelt between Main Street and Veterans' Parkway that we felt we had not covered well the night before. It is amazing how much more you can see in daylight! We then sent our teams westward from Veterans' Parkway, aiming to go all the way to the city limits, but were called back for a new briefing in late afternoon.

New information had been received that placed the subject in downtown Boise, at the art museum and a nearby restaurant, Sunday afternoon and evening. As requested, we moved to Municipal Park and worked two teams westward from there, one on each side of the river. The third team worked eastward from the hotel, on the south side of the river. Each team was now accompanied by a police officer—until the famous demonstration called some of them to other duty. This part of the Greenbelt feels more urban, with businesses, residences, parks and university campus, but there is still a lot of not-immediately-visible space. We spent more hours following side paths, ducking into thickets and picking our way through wet footing, but still with no helpful results.

On September 27, the media reported the subject's purse had been found—on the east side of Boise, not in the Greenbelt area.

## **GREENBELT SEARCH CONTINUED, OCTOBER 9**

After the missing woman's body had been found in the river by a fisherman, Garden City and Boise Police Departments wanted a detailed search of the river banks, looking for several items of clothing and other objects that the woman was assumed to have with her, as well as any evidence of the actual scene of the crime. Our instructions were to search the banks and Greenbelt from both sides, but concentrating on the south side, starting downstream of the location where the body was found and working upstream (eastward).

Leslie Robertson with Mingo and Martha Vandivort started behind the Bayview complex, working downstream a ways and then back to the east. Pam Green with Inca and Chris Schneck went in from as close as they could get to 50<sup>th</sup> Street; they also had to work downstream through thick brush before reversing direction. Rick Cudd joined this team later. Charlotte Gunn with Hobo and Sam Barker went in at 46<sup>th</sup> Street and worked eastward. Kris Walker brought his small jetboat over and picked up a Boise City officer to check the water's edges. George Gunn served as O.L. from various locations.

in the same terrain as before. Not only did we follow winding “trails” through the brushy areas, but we opened garbage bags and poked through piles of clothing and other items. (If your recreational strolls along the Greenbelt have given you the vague impression that there are quite a few slobs who still litter public areas, you are only on the edge of the truth. We hope some groups will do a cleanup as public service—and they will wear gloves to handle that stuff and bring trucks to haul it away.)

The only one of our group involved in exciting discoveries on this day was Kris, who was called up to the Main Street bridge where detectives and the Boise Fire Department Dive Team were retrieving clothing and other items that were presumably related to this case. We saw the same news reports as everyone else, having finished our search areas at the hotel just downstream from the bridge, as darkness was falling.

## **CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP PROJECT** **--BY PAM GREEN**

**HEADS UP!** It is time for all you gift wrappers out there to think about our annual REI gift wrap and what kind of time you will be able to donate. Don't make me have to call you!

REI has asked us to be available from December 15 through Christmas Eve. I will have the schedule worked out by November 15. It is one of the neatest fundraisers of all. You sit inside a warm store on a soft chair, surrounded by all known manner of outdoor stuff, get to see what's new, make small talk with all the cheery shoppers and wrap up all the fun things someone else is getting for Christmas.

We will wrap in topo maps until they run out. I have made arrangements to get a grant from REI to pay for any extra wrapping paper we may need. Please be on the lookout for wrapping paper with an outdoor theme. I have already made 180 bows and would appreciate any additional ones you might be willing to do. I would be happy to show you how it's done. Note that you do not have to be especially artistic to make the bows and/or wrap the gifts; our effect is rustic and outdoorsy.

If you would like to invite a friend or spouse who is not an IMSARU member to work with you, that would be fine. Just call Pam Green at 362-9272.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** **--BY PAM GREEN, NEW MEMBER COORDINATOR**

We have five new mission-ready members, who have had their packs checked and taken the field certification class. Please welcome Brad Acker, Craig Jones, John Kuhn, Jason Haugen and Dan Scovel. By coincidence, we had a mission a few days after their field certification class and had several of these folks out in the field and on the river. Thank you to Jeff Munn and Jerry Newland for giving their time to act as instructors.

## **SOMETHING THAT IS NOT LOOKED FOR WILL NOT BE SEEN**

### **--BY BRAD ACKER**

Tracking as defined by Universal Tracking Services is a first-response primary search resource used to verify witness statements, establish the PLS and direction of victim travel and follow the physical evidence to the mission person. It seems common sense enough, but what is it I'm looking for anyway? For me, a novice tracker, that was the prevailing question of the tracking course on September 29 through October 1 at Camp Cody in Wamic, OR.

IMSARU was represented by Paula McCollum with her faithful dog Jeb, Rick Cudd, Aimee Hastriter and myself. We all bunked up in a cozy little cabin for three nights and three days of tracker education, good food, story telling and entertainment. For me, the entertainment consisted of laying a scent trail for Paula's dog Jeb and beating Aimee (and her coach) in cribbage. (Does anyone smell a skunk?) I think the others got most of their entertainment by making fun of my alleged snoring. The good food was cooked by a group of Wamic senior citizens who provided breakfast, lunch and dinner, complete with cookies and ice cream for dessert! Everyone should be happy to know that at breakfast both Jeb and Paula got their fill of bacon. In between tracking exercises there were plenty of real-life search and rescue stories to go around. For me, being new to SAR, listening to stories from other units and learning how other units function and are organized was just as educational as learning how to track.

Universal Tracking Services (UTS) sponsored the event. UTS was formed in 1991 to provide structured, organized and ranked levels of tracker training for SAR, law enforcement, military, border patrol and other interested groups. UTS programs are certified to law enforcement standards and recognized by agencies such as the FBI and Border Patrol. The four levels of certification currently available are Track Aware (beginner), Tracker I (apprentice), Tracker II (journeyman) and Sign Cutter (artisan.)

After quick personal introductions on Friday morning, we were split into two groups. The beginners and those working toward becoming track aware were in one group and the "big kids" (people above track aware level) were in the other. My group, or the newbies as we were called, spent the morning in the classroom. The "big kids" spent their time doing cool and advanced things like cutting for sign and following the bad guys, complete with a crime scene, a witness, guns and blood. For more information on that, you will need to talk to Paula.

My group started with the cold hard facts. Whenever people move about on foot, they leave sign. Trained trackers are most often able to locate the physical evidence of that sign. That brings us back to the title of the article—what is not looked for will not be seen. It is physical evidence we are looking for. If you are lucky, it could be an entire footprint; in most cases, however, it could be things such as a cracked leaf, a broken stick, a turned-over rock or an area of flattened grass. After opening our minds to what a tracker might be looking for, the class watched a slide show that had many more examples of sign such as scuff marks left on logs, dirt transferred onto vegetation, sand embedded into the underside of leaves and weeping of damaged vegetation, to list just a few.

Being able to communicate with your fellow trackers means you have to know the lingo and how to use it. We had a glossary of fifty words and terms used by modern trackers, including words such as sign, shine, aging, crying, healing, transfer and phrases such as signature track, sign cutting, tracking team, tracker blindness, interlaced vegetation.

Next we learned the standard method for sketching footprints and recording the dimensions and stride intervals, and identification of basic styles of footgear, toe styles, heel styles, sole patterns, worn places and cuts. We recorded all of these, along with time, date and location, on footprint cards, to show other trackers and investigators how the true sign appears and to refresh our mental image when needed.

During the last part of our classroom session, we learned how to set up and use a tracking stick and how tracking teams are assembled. The tracking stick can be any straight stick 36"-40" long with two rubber bands to record total foot length and stride interval. With this tool and a known print, the tracker can locate the prime sign area where the next print is most likely located.

The ideal tracking team is made up of three people—a point person, a left flanker and a right flanker. The point person is in charge, using his/her tracking stick to follow the track step-by-step. The flankers, to the side and slightly behind the point, have the job of identifying any intersecting sign that may enter into the prime sign area and watching for a quick change of direction by the subject.

With all this knowledge, we were confident that we could track just about anyone down just about any beach. It was time for the field. We spent the next two days (and one night) following tracks laid for us earlier. On our hands and knees, faces inches from the ground, we pondered: Is that grass bent? I think I see some shine on that stick? Has that rock been rolled over? It all seemed so straight-forward in the slide show. Was it the rain that was falling? Was it early onset of tracker blindness? No, I think it's just being a newbie.

All in all, this class was very educational and fun. Since the class, I have started to read one of the suggested tracking books, Tracking, A Blueprint for Learning How, by Jack Kearney. This book is in our SAR library and I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in tracking. Also note that you need not go to a UTS class just to practice tracking. We have several qualified personnel in our unit, and formation of a tracking practice group is as easy as letting your interest be known.

## **THANKS FOR A SUCCESSFUL MISSION**

Please pass this on to all who were involved,

I want to give my warm thanks to all who were involved in my rescue on Sept. 5th on the Deadwood River. After reading your news letter, I gained a better appreciation of what you folks do and the time and dedication that is given into this noble organization. It gives me a warm fuzzy feeling to know that people like yourselves were up in the middle of the night and on the road long before the sun comes up to look after the welfare of a total stranger like myself. What I went through that evening I would not wish on my worst enemy. It was just plain scary! I was completely wet and shivering the whole night and probably on the verge of hypothermia as the temp I am sure was in the thirties at that elevation. Your quick response is greatly appreciated. I can't imagine what another night would have been like without food or shelter. I have been kayaking avidly for about eight years and have paddled the Deadwood at least twenty times. It is very rare to lose a kayak like that. All of my survival gear was in the kayak. I learned a valuable lesson, that is to carry the bare survival essentials on my person (like matches) when running a wilderness river.

God bless you all,

## CALENDAR

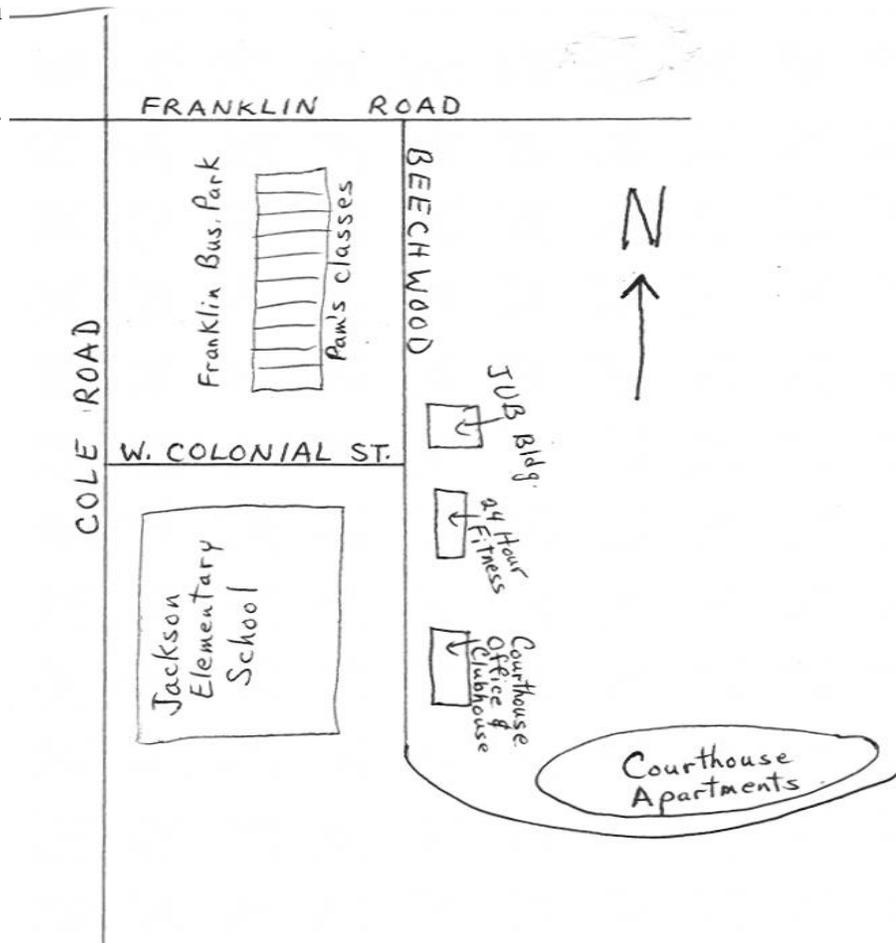
Nov. 7	General Meeting	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Nov. 12	Canine Training – Contact Martha Vandivort at 338-0284	
Nov. 14	SAR Training	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Nov. 18	SAR Field Training – Time and Place TBA	Meet at Compound
Nov. 21	Medical Training	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Nov. 25	Canine Training – Contact Leslie Robertson at 362-5352	
Nov. 28	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Dec. 3	Christmas Party – See article and map on next page	5 p.m. Courthouse Apts.
Dec. 5	General Meeting	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Dec. 10	Canine Training – Contact Jeff Munn at 562-1997	
Dec. 12	SAR Training	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Dec. 15-24	Gift Wrap Project – See article — HELP!	REI Store 8300 W. Emerald
Dec. 16	SAR Field Training – Time and Place TBA	Meet at Compound
Dec. 19	Medical Training	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Dec. 26	Business Meeting    \$\$ <b>BUDGET</b> \$\$	7:30 p.m. At the Compound
Dec. 31	Canine Training – Contact Pam Green at 362-9272	
Jan. 2	General Meeting	7:30 p.m. At the Compound

## HO! HO! HO!

The IMSARU Christmas party is a tradition that you don't want to miss, so mark your calendar now for Sunday, December 3, at 5 p.m. This is a time when we eat a great potluck dinner, recognize members who have done more than their share during the past year, reminisce and laugh. Pam and Rod are in charge of the serious awards, so please talk to them about people you think should receive public thanks. Diane and Charlotte are preparing the not-so-serious awards to commemorate special moments of the year 2000; please give them your suggestions of humorous and/or embarrassing incidents that should not yet be forgotten. (They won't tell who told them.)

The place this year is the Courthouse Apartments clubhouse, which David Hay has arranged and paid for. It's a beautiful facility with kitchen available for anything that needs to be kept cold or heated at the last minute. If you know where Pam teaches her canine classes (near the intersection of Franklin and Cole), the apartment complex is tucked away on the opposite corner, behind the 24-Hour Fitness Center and behind Jackson Elementary School. If you've never been to Pam's classes, just follow the extremely clear map below. You can park in any designated parking spot that does not have a roof over it. (The roofed spots belong to specific apartments.) If things are really crowded, there is a big parking lot next door at the Fitness Center, which isn't likely to be crowded on a Sunday evening.

This is a great chance for your spouse or special friend to come and meet some of those weird people you've been spending time with. Dress is as fancy or as casual as you wish, as long as it's not bright orange. Bring a large dish of your favorite food to share. Table service and soft drinks will be provided; if you want beer or wine, bring your own. Come prepared to enjoy yourself in good company. We know that most people have to go to work on Monday morning, so the party will not run late.



## **SIDE SCAN SONAR IN USE**

### **--BY GENE RALSTON**

Many of you have heard by now that Sandy and I have our side scan sonar in operation. We are working on learning how best to use it for search-and-recovery missions, and thought you might like to hear some early results. And again, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Micron PC for donating the LCD monitor which we first used during the Deadwood Reservoir search.

#### ***Bear Lake, September 29***

A 24-year-old male drowned in Bear Lake on August 13, while swimming from a boat. He went down in 148 feet of water. Search efforts included a powerful ROV (remote operated vehicle) from the National Park Service in southern Utah, several local divers, canine teams from American Search Dogs, and a lot of other resources—without success. We contacted the Rich County, Utah, SAR team and discussed our desire to help with the side scan unit. The official search had been called off, but they agreed to let us demonstrate the unit.

We arrived at the Bear Lake Marina on September 28, set up and tested the equipment. Tom Corn, of the Ada County Sheriff's Office and member of the side scan team, came along to drive the boat while Gene operated the equipment and Sandy assisted with towfish cable management and general oversight. The following morning, after briefing and boating across the lake to the scene, we began searching a 50-foot parallel line grid pattern I had set up, using the best available estimation of a point last seen in addition to search dog alert location information. By 2:55 p.m., we had found the subject. We made additional images that afternoon and the next day to confirm that our target was indeed the drowned swimmer.

[Contact Gene Ralston at [gralston@micron.net](mailto:gralston@micron.net) to request images of the side scan finds.]

The next two days were spent working with local officials to establish a recovery plan. The water depth, combined with the 6000-foot elevation, made use of divers very risky. It was decided to request that the National Park Service return with the ROV for the recovery. A large number of local SAR folks, sheriff's deputies from two counties, and Utah State Park rangers assisted with the recovery. Needless to say, the family was very relieved and appreciative, since they had all but given up hope.

#### ***Lake Powell, October 22-24***

The National Park Service requested our assistance to search for a drowned man after their efforts using a remote underwater vehicle were unsuccessful. To make a long story short, we found him in 280 feet of water on the first pass during the second day we were there. It took the rest of that day and most of the next to accomplish the recovery, but it was a successful mission.

[More about this mission in the next issue, after the team recovers from their 14-hour drive home.]

## **HOW MANY SAR MEMBERS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A TIRE? --BY CHARLOTTE GUNN**

It made us nervous to drive 903 on in to the back-country search beyond Council after the fan belt for the air pump broke, but the Cambridge mechanic assured us the truck was still drivable and would make it home to Boise again. He was right. The following day, however, 901 was not drivable after blowing a tire a few miles below Council. David handled the suddenly weird steering until he could pull off the road, followed by the four private vehicles also heading home after two days of searching. Then the fun began.

Do we have a spare? Of course, and it looks like low mileage. Well, it's not a steel-belted radial like the remaining three on the truck, but we can handle that for a few hours. Haul out the spare and the jack and the lug wrench. Oops! We can't find a lug wrench and even the toughest SAR-types don't have that kind of finger strength. Not to worry—Martha has an X-bar lug wrench and it does fit the nuts on 901. Now, which jack to use? The high-lift bumper jack will do the job but is not stable enough to be safe. So, place the axle jack and start screwing it up. A million turns of the handle later, the jack is fully extended and the ruined tire is not off the ground. Not good. Everyone scrounges through their private vehicles for an effective jack. Pam discovers that yes, she does have a jack in her truck and it's stored under the hood. (Isn't it amazing what information is contained in the owner's manual?) Leslie offers her jack but it really isn't designed for this truck.

After much consultation, including the feasibility of AAA membership, we remove the jacks and back the truck around so that it is side-to-side level and therefore less likely to roll if it tips. Stones behind the other three wheels should prevent rolling backward. And if worst comes to worst, Steve is a paramedic, yes? If we raise the truck with the high-lift jack enough to place the axle jack on top of a flat stone.... Many stones are offered and rejected by David before one comes in that will probably work if he scoops away some gravel so it's not too high to start. Aha! The idea of "dig" catches hold. Pam does know where her (well, actually Leslie's) shovel is in Pam's truck. Once the jack is fully extended, a few scrapes with the shovel allow the offending tire to be removed and more vigorous shoveling allows the replacement tire to move in. Tighten up the lug nuts, remove the jack, replace scattered equipment in vehicles, clean hands with Leslie's towelettes and we're ready to sail on home.

Well, not so fast. The spare tire is not flat but it is very underinflated. Steve's tire gauge will show 18 pounds of pressure instead of the recommended 60. A truck does not travel well with such extreme underinflation, and drivers stuck behind us at 35 mph are not happy. Cambridge has only one gas station still open at this hour on Sunday, and they don't have air. Drive on very slowly to Weiser, where we are greatly relieved to find air. Wow! Now we can get on the interstate without being a total traffic hazard. We are all tired, but home is close.

I hate to admit that there are still some sexist moments in IMSARU, but it was David, Tom and Steve who changed the tire while the women and dogs watched. There is a limit to the number of people who can work safely in a small area, but we honestly were happy to let someone else do it. On a personal note, I especially appreciated David's persistence with a difficult problem, Tom's awareness of safety issues, and Steve's cheerfulness. Thank you, guys!

## **RESCUE RANDY'S ROADSIDE REPAIRS, REDUX**

On the way home from our training in McCall on September 30, just where the road curves from the high valley into the canyon, Chris Karnes' little truck quit. At least there was a nice wide space to pull over, including room later for four carloads of friends. When Chris and Leslie could not find the problem, Chris called for a AAA truck. [Much later, we saw the AAA truck beside the road with another vehicle, a couple of miles farther down—did the message get scrambled somewhere?]

An hour and a half later, Chris and Leslie flagged down the rest of us who had enjoyed a meal in McCall. It was almost the same crew who had dealt with the blown tire on 901 three weeks earlier. This time, a different jack and some flat rocks wouldn't do the job, but we had much the same variety of unhelpful advice and bad jokes. Only Tom's son and Leslie actually got out their lawn chairs to be comfortable spectators! It was Rod's sharp eyes that spotted the burned-through coil wire. As usual, it was too late on a Sunday evening to expect to find a garage open, and even George didn't have an extra coil wire in his truck. However, Rod, George and Tom pooled their expertise and tools to remove the burnt section of wire, clean and shape the new end, and reattach it.

We refreshed ourselves with the traditional brownies, put Chris at the head of the caravan, and drove on home without further incident. Moral of the story: If you're going to have a vehicle breakdown, do it with a bunch of friends. Better yet, do it with a bunch of SAR types who may not be able to spell "improvise" but sure can do it.

### **OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2001**

At the general meeting on October 3, we elected officers for the coming year. The nominations committee had done an outstanding job, with up to four candidates for each position. Many thanks to the committee and to the members who were willing to serve if elected. In the following list, an asterisk indicates the same person is serving in the same position as the past year:

President – Rick Cudd	Coordinator – Rod Knopp *
Vice-President – Aimee Hastriter	Secretary – Diane Mathews *
Treasurer – Dave Sorenson *	Medical Director – Steve Pack
Logistical Equipment Director – Jerry Newland *	Training Director – George Gunn
Rescue Equipment Director – Bob Meredith	Facilities Manager – Jeff Munn *
Public Relations Director – Leslie Robertson *	

Note: The following positions are appointed or volunteer, not elected, and the same people are continuing in them.

New Member Coordinator – Pam Green	Newsletter Editor – Charlotte Gunn
Truck Maintenance – Chuck Bricker	Radio and Pager Maintenance – Ed Emmel

We ask all members to support these people who are donating so much extra time and energy to our unit, by sharing ideas, saying "yes" when asked to participate, volunteering to take on a proj-

## **NAVIGATION FIELD EXERCISE, PART 2 – OCTOBER 14 --BY TONY ROCKWELL**

The turnout was small, but the impact was big. We met at the Compound and reviewed a few GPS basics for one of our new members, John Kuhn, and then headed toward our first stop. Leslie Robertson led the way and John rode with me. The “parking area” identified on our sheet sounded familiar, so we guessed it to be Bob’s cabin. We were close. He had actually established a point on the road behind his cabin, but it was close enough for us to just walk over.

Finding the initial marker for the starting point turned out to be a bit of a chore. Although we were standing there, with Leslie’s coat lying on the ground about two feet from the marker, we didn’t see it. After finally finding it, we could start toward the first leg of the exercise. With only a couple of hints from Bob, we were able to complete all three legs (“tracker,” “tech” and “doggie”) by about 3 p.m. We skipped a couple of “doggie” steps because we were not using a dog, but we did need to get to that clue.

On our way out, we stopped and navigated to the elusive OMAN marker that had been sitting out there since the previous Navigation weekend!

Thanks to Bob, we had a great learning experience on both navigation weekends.

## **XENA CHRONICLES, CHAPTER 2**

When we went searching with Hobo on September 25 and 26, Xena had to stay home alone where she has the run of the back yard and can use the dog door to go into the kitchen. When we returned on Monday, we saw a large, red, round object in her kennel and thought she had taken Hobo’s big Kong as a consolation toy. It wasn’t until we found the juice on the deck and half-eaten tomatoes in the yard that we realized Xena had helped herself to tomatoes ripening on the counter. On Tuesday it was the tray of parsley drying for storage: If you get your paws on one edge and tip the tray off the counter, it works like a catapult to cover most of the kitchen with parsley. At least parsley is not juicy.

We also have a trough, over a foot long and several inches deep, excavated by Xena and Hobo at the edge of the backyard brush pile. During games of “Chase me,” when Hobo presses too hard or seems more threatening than usual, Xena dashes into the trough and hunkers down as though she is hidden. The amazing part is that Hobo accepts the fiction and does not pounce on the large exposed area of puppy. We don’t know whether Xena thinks she is the proverbial ostrich or whether this is a canine version of King’s-X.

## **MANTRACKING COURSE IN CORVALLIS, OR, OCTOBER 20-21 --BY TONY ROCKWELL**

This course is considered an “internal training” course by Benton County Oregon Emergency Management Services. It was a Universal Tracking Services-style course taught by Marvin Martin and Stan Robson (Sheriff of Benton County); both are UTS instructors. Several of the other instructors and aides were Tracker I and Tracker II certified.

Around 25 students attended this free course. Leslie Robertson drove out early on Friday, with Sam Barker and myself traveling in the afternoon. We encountered rain and fog over the mountains as we approached Benton County, and spent the night at the County Fairgrounds where a train interrupted someone's sleep.



Tracking is a hands-on, up-close activity.

Our planned start was delayed by the necessity of moving to a facility with larger classroom space; however, classroom activities started by 8:30 a.m. The material was very informative and after the handouts, slides and video we felt ready to try our hand at tracking in the field. After lunch, training moved outside to the property surrounding an old mill. We had three rain showers to contend with during the day. Luckily, there was an area with some shelter where we could wait out the worst of it. Actually, the rain was a positive thing for the class because we got to see the effects of the rain on the tracks we were following. With a break for dinner, we

went on after dark so that we could learn how to use flashlights in tracking. After wrapping up at around 8 or 8:30 p.m., we settled in with our gracious hosts, Leslie's parents. Sam and I really appreciated the use of a shower and indoor accommodations.

On Sunday morning we were back in the field at 8 a.m. The "aging" of the tracks overnight and the morning dew proved to be a greater challenge for us in identifying them. Again, this challenge was met with a positive outlook because it gave us insight into the effects of time on tracks left by our "subject." Our pace quickened as our ability to spot the telltale signs improved and we could apply the knowledge gained. We became aware of



Wouldn't it be nice to have this many track-aware members on your team?

how a good tracking team could really help speed the search and rescue efforts of our unit. Overall, I believe we all came away from this training with a great respect for tracking, and a desire to learn more, become more efficient at tracking and apply this skill to improve our unit's ability to find our subjects quickly.

## **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK....**

**--BY GEORGE GUNN**

Fall fell with a vengeance, frosting tomato and squash plants into oblivion, and IMSARU had not done the fall cleaning. In fact, corn booth parts were still scattered around the garage. An emergency call went out for “all hands.” The turnout was spectacular and the work flew...some say it levitated. Much of the “old meeting room” was emptied and cases of bottled water moved in--first by the armload, then carts were pressed into service; finally a human chain passed (threw) them into place.



Cartons of bottled water float to new storage area.

Jeff Munn brought a trailer for the trash and we had much discussion over what items deserved to be consigned to that trailer. In the end more went in than some wanted and others felt we didn't throw away enough. You know mountain rescue types: Get five of us in one place and there will be seven opinions in the group.

The corn booth got stowed, medical equipment was organized, furniture moved to better advantage, the map boxes relocated, and the materials for “garage phase two” consolidated. Now even with the boats

taking up the south bay, there is a surprising amount of room.

Many thanks to all who answered the call. Property manager Jeff is pleased. The work went quickly. There was much laughter. And Charlotte rewarded everyone with chocolate goodies.

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