



RESCUE

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

MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**
SINCE 1960



**MOCK WINTER MISSION AND SNOW OVERNIGHT
TRAINING – FEBRUARY 17-18, 2001
--TOM WHELESS**

Once again we ventured forth to test our endurance and see who among us was the best at sculpting that darned white stuff into, if not comfortable, at least functional shelters. Present this year for the overnighter were Jerry Newland (leader), Joey Clements, Richard Clements, Stine Theede, Renee Johanson, Jennifer Simms and myself.

Jeff Munn and Mocha went up for the first day. We went to the Sunset Mountain area, near Moore’s Creek Summit, about 15 miles north of Idaho City. Jerry had scouted the area for us the week before and reported 4-5 feet of snow and good conditions, but Mother Nature decided to take back about a foot of that snow during the week before we arrived; she left the remaining snow rather dry and crumbly.



Tom pretends he’s cooking, before going for cheeseburgers. Photo by Jerry Newland

Most people decided, rather wisely, to build snow caves. I had had good luck last year with a snow trench so I decided, rather unwisely, to try that again. More about this later.

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RESCUE is published monthly by the IDAHO MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT, INC.
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Deadline of the 20th of the month is required for material to be included in the next month’s issue.

Richard and Joey tunneled in from the main trail, to save themselves some digging, and ended up having to make a 90-degree turn after running into dirt. But they ended up with a serviceable although somewhat small shelter. Jerry had the same problem and ended up with a very large entrance hole which he tried to close up with snow blocks made up into sort of a half-igloo shape.



A snow cave roof, the next morning.
Photo by Jerry Newland

Alas, the snow wasn't up to it and he had to move to another location and dig again. The second time, he very unselfishly picked a location where there was a large bush entirely buried in the snow so he could cut firewood for the group at the same time as digging his cave. (He later reported that he slept very well that night after all the exercise.) Jennifer and Renee built a snow cave together and, except for having to pile a lot of extra snow on top to get enough depth, theirs went well. The next day, by the way, we all stood on top of their cave (after they had vacated it, of course) to test the strength of the snow, and it didn't budge an inch. Richard had to vigorously jump up and down several times to make a hole even though the roof proved to be only about 12 inches thick. That snow can be remarkably strong when you have the proper arch to your roof.

My snow trench didn't go well at all. I made it a bit too wide this year and that, combined with the crumbly snow, meant I couldn't get the roof to work. I tried to salvage it with a tarp laid across branches but my tarp was just a bit too small. It was at this point that I suddenly decided one of us should go down and sleep in my truck to protect the vehicles from the marauding bands of deer and elk known to frequent the area. Also, the idea of a hot cheeseburger in Idaho City seemed a lot more attractive than a cold MRE. I did bring back a bag of burgers and fries for the rest of the group and Richard consented to transport them back up the hill (for the modest fee of two cheeseburgers.) The group later reported that even ice-cold cheeseburgers taste pretty good after you've spent several hours digging a snow cave.

MEDICAL TRAINING – FEBRUARY 20, 24 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

Medical Director Steve Pack taught the second session of a brief course in wilderness first aid on Tuesday evening, dealing especially with patient assessment, shock and triage. We then met at 8 a.m. on Saturday for a field scenario to do some hands-on practice. In addition to Steve, who set up the exercise and served as the medical control officer, Kit Brown was a "cross-country skier



Amie, Steve A and Tim prepare to transport Kit.
Photo by C. Gunn

who did not return on Friday evening” and Steve Argyle was “a snowmobiler reported missing in the same area as the skier.” Tony Rockwell served as O.L., with Jerry Newland as his mentor, and Aimee Hastriter was in charge of medical response. Other participants included Brad Acker, Jim Cooper, Rick Cudd, Charlotte Gunn, Paula McCollum, new applicant Tim Pape, Dan Scovel, Martha Vandivoort, Suzanne Ventura and Tom Wheless.

When the first search team radioed that they had located both subjects and that both were in serious condition, everyone was in motion, either vectoring in to the site from other search routes or packing equipment from base camp. The “snowmobiler” had suffered head trauma and was having difficulty breathing. When he “stopped breathing,” the rescuers administered CPR until medical control agreed they should abandon that patient and concentrate on the other. The “skier” needed lots of help, having a fractured femur, injured knee and fractured wrist. To make the problem more interesting, she was on a steep slope above a creek. Even when the crew moved her up onto level ground beside the trail, the snow was inconsistent—sometimes solid and sometimes giving way to thigh depth.

We didn’t believe our ears when Tony informed us that a volunteer snowmobiler was helping to transport the equipment, but sure enough, he had convinced a passing recreationist to join our game. Kit, splinted and bandaged and warmly wrapped, was packaged into the Sked for a ride back to base camp and the waiting “medical helicopter.” Everyone else, even the miraculously healed Steve A., either hitched to the Sked or toted equipment the three-quarters of a mile down the hill.



Tony and Jerry plan the action.
Photo by Charlotte Gunn



Kit rides back to base camp.

Photo by Charlotte Gunn

It was a bit surprising to see so many vehicles and people in the base camp area—snowmobiling, tubing, sledding, socializing—and we reassured them that this was training and that Kit wasn’t really injured. After debriefing, we packed up for the even mushier trip back out to the highway and down to Idaho City for a late lunch before returning to the Compound.

Many thanks to Steve Pack for both the classroom and the field training. He gave us a good combination of challenge and fun. We do appreciate his arranging such gorgeous weather. Thanks also to Kit and Steve A. for lying in the snow as subjects and adding appropriate sound effects. And even those who saw it can't believe that Martha Vandivoort drove her little Toyota into and out of that area with nary a hitch.

SLEDDING, IMSARU STYLE

MEDICAL FIELD TRAINING, FROM THE VICTIM'S PERSPECTIVE

--KIT BROWN

On a beautiful winter Saturday morning—perfect spring skiing weather—I went sledding with IMSARU. Now, these people don't just get a tube or sled and race up and down the hill; that would be too easy. First I had to get run over by a snowmobile, and Steve Argyle had to die. When they found me, I had been out all night; had a broken femur, torn knee ligaments, a broken left wrist and bruising in my upper abdomen. Though conscious, I was going into shock. Steve was in worse shape though; he was dying and did a great job faking the snoring respirations—at least, I think he was faking.

The team's mission was to perform triage, attempt to save Steve, extricate me from the log I was trapped under, assess my injuries, package me, and get me to the landing zone as quickly as possible. Everyone did a great job of comforting me as I was "screaming" while they put a traction splint on the "broken" femur, and responded quickly when I pretended to pass out. Even during the short time I was lying in the snow, I started to get cold, so one of the guys gallantly wrapped me in his coat. Though we had fun with the scenario and joked around a lot, everyone was very professional and efficient.



It takes a lot of people to safely transport a "seriously injured" subject

Photot by Charlotte Gunn

I was particularly grateful to the person who decided I should be placed in the evacuation sled so that my head was uphill; there was much less motion sickness and head bouncing that way. It was a bit disconcerting to only be able to see the sky whizzing by at what seemed a high rate of speed (though people were walking next to the sled, so I couldn't have been going that fast.) Aimee did a great job as medical lead, stopping the sled frequently to make sure I was OK and to do the reassessment.

Since I didn't know most of the people before the mission, I was a bit nervous about the whole thing, but if (God forbid) I ever need to be rescued, I hope these guys are the ones who show up.

DON'T MISS ANY OF THIS!!!
GEORGE GUNN - TRAINING DIRECTOR

Airplanes, sidescan sonar, winter mountaineering, SAR management, medivac helicopters, climbing in a world class-setting, emergency vehicle operations, multi-agency mock mission and bivouac. It is going to be a wild ride from here to the Corn Booth and you will want to take it all in!

There have been changes to the **training schedule**. Check out the new calendar. **March** 17th training on rope systems has been moved from the Nampa Rec. Center to real rock.

Tim Henning is working up the **April** winter mountaineering training on Tuesday the 10th and Saturday / Sunday 14-15 April. Contact Tim for more information.

May will see us working with the Ada County Aerial Sheriffs. These are the folks who have been flying our observers on missions. We want everyone to become familiar with how our two units work together. The weekend training will be at the Garden Valley airport.

How searches are run is undergoing changes and we intend to keep up. We are sponsoring a SAR management course. The classroom portion will be 19-20 May.

Rumor has Bob Meredith organizing our annual Memorial Day climb to Leatherman Peak this year.

We are switching things around for **June**, so make the necessary adjustments on your calendar. On Tuesday night, the 5th, Basic Survival and Bivouac information will be the topic. On the first weekend, 9-10 June, IMSARU is joining with the Civil Air Patrol's SAREX. They will be transporting SAR assets from around the state to an overnight mock mission managed by our class.

In **July** we are hosting an MRA region event at The City of Rocks.

This season's **General Meetings** will also be devoted to training. . Many of our missions this past year have been water-related. In **April**, Gene Ralston will be bringing water search and sidescan sonar to us. [IMSARU is in the business of trying to cheat death and sometimes we lose.] On **May** 1st, we will explore the impact of grief on us as responders / rescuers. **June's** general meeting is moved to the 12th when we will be playing a Jeopardy game about survival. **July** will be a review of Anchors before we go to The City of Rocks.

August is Corn Booth time and most of the month will be devoted to our major fundraiser. Before we launch into preparations for the Fair, we will have our general meeting on the 7th at the Department of Law Enforcement's POST facility in Meridian. Debbie Kindelberger will teach us about Emergency Vehicle operations and maybe some of us will get to drive the skid car. Told you it would be a wild ride ;-).

DOG TRAINING FROM THE SUBJECT'S PERSPECTIVE
FEBRUARY 3, 2001
--KIT BROWN

Pulaskis—They aren't just for fighting fires any more! Leslie and I discovered that they come in quite handy for carving snow steps into the side of a 40-degree slope so that we could get down to the dog training area.

About 15 people and 8 dogs headed up to Bogus Basin to practice snow searches. We dug several caves to hide in. Some crazy people actually volunteered to get buried completely so the more experienced dogs could look for them. I opted to help Suzanne with her puppy, Schatz, and just waded through hip-deep snow to leave a trail. George and a couple of other people stayed up at the parking lot and acted as lookouts, in case dogs or people found themselves in real difficulty.



“Groundhog” Pack emerges from hiding.
Photo by T. Rockwell

Hobo looked quite handsome with her homemade gaiter, and navigated the hill and snow better than expected, considering that she'd recently had surgery. Mingo snuffled around the snow cave where Steve was hiding for several minutes before deciding that someone was there. (We had made it very difficult for Mingo because everyone, including his handler Leslie, had been in and around the area.) He worked the problem like the pro he is and figured it out. However, the look on

Mingo's face was priceless when the snow started talking to him while he was searching for Craig.

Martha and her dog Angie landed on top of me when the snow cave in which I was hiding collapsed under them. We were all laughing so hard that it was difficult to unpile ourselves. Jeb, Xena and Inca also had big fun looking for people hiding in the snow. Jeb's a hound dog and got a little cold during the exercise, but loved having his very own portable blanket (a canine great-cape.)



Hobo and Charlotte search the snow.
Photo by T. Rockwell

After the training session, we had a big lunch and a few of us went downhill skiing the rest of the day. It was a thoroughly satisfactory day.

TRASH or TREASURE?? SPRING SALE APPROACHES

There are those who like yard sales and those who don't, but we need all your help whether or not you personally consider a yard sale as "fun." Rod Knopp is arranging this spring fling, and he will arrange pickup of anything you can donate if you don't want to deliver it to the Compound yourself. The emphasis will be on sports equipment, but we will be pleased to take anything salable. Ask your friends, neighbors and relatives, as well as bringing your own donations. [April 15 is the deadline](#) for this, and it will be more enjoyable than your tax return. IMSARU has a long history of yard sales; become part of this history by bringing your donations to the Compound or calling Rod at 342-0553 to arrange for pickup.

GPS TREASURE HUNT --BOB MEREDITH

This is for those looking for something to do in their spare time. You can look for hidden treasure with your GPS receiver. Go to the web site www.Geocaching.com and register, then continue to the Idaho site. Here you will find coordinates of hidden treasures or markers to find throughout Idaho. I just placed one on Borah (not the top) and will place two more the first of March. Check it out! It's good practice and fun. The cache on Borah has a pocket multi tool in it for the first person to find it.

LADIES' NIGHT ON THE CLIMBING WALL --CHARLOTTE GUNN

Men of IMSARU, please don't take this as a criticism. It's just that most of the technical climbers currently in the group are male, and there was some concern that it may be intimidating to women who either want to try climbing in order to see if it appeals to them or want to learn enough to be helpful on a mission without becoming real technical climbers themselves. So, on February 26, Martha Vandivoort was the instructor for eleven IMSARU women at the B.S.U. climbing wall. Martha introduced some of the standard hard-



Suzanne stretches for the next hold.

Photo by C. Gunn



Aimee climbs while Stine belays. Photo by Charlotte Gunn

ware and vocabulary, showed everyone how to don the harnesses and operate the grigri, and had us work in pairs on belay technique. All those who wished also had a chance to take turns as climbers. Not all of the participants were total beginners, as was obvious if you watched Sarah Goldstein or Aimee Hastriter climb to the top of the wall, but all expressed appreciation for the chance to try a few things without any pressure. Thank you, Martha.

WHAT IS GOOD FISHING WEATHER? TROUT POND AT SPRING SPORTS SHOW – MARCH 1-4 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

The answer to the above question is: We don't know, but we didn't have it this year. On Friday, it snowed. On Sunday, the cold wind gusted so hard that it blew away the shelter at the entrance. Those of us who worked on Saturday counted ourselves lucky. We were also fortunate that **Nelson's R.V.** provided a large trailer camper for our headquarters—a place to store equipment and personal belongings, and a warm place to take a break during those five or six hours of standing out in the weather.

Despite the weather and the fish's reluctance to bite, the crowd was mellow this year (at least during my shift) and we greatly appreciate the chance to do this fund-raiser. Thanks again to Spectra Productions, Channel 7 and Intermountain Outdoor Sports for setting up and supplying the tank, the fish and the equipment. The oxygen tank presumably accounted for the increased health of the trout, and we managed to chase away the smokers who ignored the large **DO NOT SMOKE HERE** signs before they caused a catastrophe. Suzanne Ventura deserves everyone's admiration for volunteering to coordinate our effort this year, and maintaining her sanity. She admits that she learned quite a bit in the process, including how to piece together the bits of a mystery puzzle.



Brad and Tony supervise the crowd. Photo by Charlotte Gunn

PLUMBERS RESCUE IMSARU

Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 296 came to the aid of IMSARU. We have needed to finish the plumbing in the meeting room and restroom ever since we remodeled the building but there have always been other priorities for the money. Jane Foreman got Local 296 to donate their expertise, they arranged with *Familian Northwest* to donate the fixtures and supplies and we stayed out of the way.



A new sink for our meeting room.

Photo by George Gunn



Tim installs lights.

Photo by G. Gunn

Tim Henning came to do the metal studs for the shower wall but since that couldn't be done yet, he amused himself by installing light fixtures. Aimee Hastriter took over the front of the meeting room and began cross-referencing the map cases.

**Thank you Plumbers
and Pipefitters
Union Local 296!!!**



Aimee sorting maps.

Photo by G. Gunn