

WEB EDITION

RESCUE

IN THIS ISSUE:

Lost in Thorn Creek area	-p. 1
River Search	-p. 2
Autistic Deaf Child	-p. 5
Water Trainings	p. 3, 6, 7

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

FOUNDING MEMBER:
**MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



WENT FOR A WALK; DID NOT RETURN – JULY 31, 2007

--CHARLOTTE GUNN

The original call sounded scary: An 85-year-old woman, 4'9" and less than 100 pounds, with a history of cardiac problems, went for a walk at 10:30 in the morning from family property (Continued on. p.4)



Carry-out in steep terrain of Thorn Creek area

-Photo by K. Walker

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@cablone.net Visit our web site at www.imsaru.org

PAYETTE RIVER SEARCH – JUNE 27, 2007 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

A 76-year-old woman left her home on April 3 and did not return. It was several days before her car was identified beside the Banks-to-Lowman Road, about a mile above Banks. An individual said he followed small footprints from the location of the car to the river's edge and found no return trail. The family assumed the missing woman had committed suicide and no evidence to the contrary appeared.

At the time, the Payette River was running high. Local searchers walked the banks from the car's location down to the confluence with the North Fork at Banks, but it was too dangerous to search in or on the water. The family called us twice, several weeks apart, wanting to hire divers to search for a body in the water; we explained the impossibility of doing a safe or efficient search with the high water flow and low visibility. We did suggest that we would be willing to do what we could at the end of June when the water should be lower and clearer. After consultation among our experienced river people, we chose a mid-week date to avoid the heavy weekend summer traffic on the river.



Mark and Mac maneuver the RDC

-Photo by A. Finley

We established base camp at Banks, with George as O.L. and Ann handling radio log and other paper work. Everett shuttled people and equipment between Banks and the river entry point. Lori and Rick T. launched their raft just above where the vehicle had been found, and transported the safety team (Ron and Phil) and the foot search team (Jimmie and Rick W.) to the far side. Rick and Lori then proceeded down the river on a visual search. On the road side, Garden Valley Fire Department personnel were the safety crew; Carl, Clint and Danny did the foot search. Mac served as the motor for the RDC supplied by Kris, and Mark used mask and snorkel to look down into the water on three separate trips. Kris launched his pontoon raft from the same entry point and ferried Charlotte and Xena on a scent search. I might add that “launching” at this site meant sliding down a very steep slope with a tail-rope as a brake. After a short stretch of calm water, we had the excitement of Slalom Rapids (probably Class 3 at this time) before continuing on down. Search teams found assorted debris but nothing directly associated with the missing woman. Mark was unable to see anything suspicious beneath the water in the one area where Xena showed interest.

Since the river below the confluence is very heavily traveled, and someone would have already seen anything we might see, we moved our base to the backwater of Black Canyon Reservoir. All three boats launched near the Montour bridge, with the addition of Phil and Rick W. as visual observers. It took two hours to cover the several miles to the first informal pullout on the reservoir. Despite the description as “backwater” and the shallowness in many areas, this was big water with definite current. Rick, Rick and Lori took the left side; Kris, Charlotte and Xena stayed to the right; Mac and Mark went wherever their instincts and experience suggested. Xena had one hit, in a heavily-silted broad bend of the watercourse; with neither a second dog nor a dive team to confirm the hit, we marked the location on GPS and transferred that to the map for any future reference.

At the end of the day, we had to tell the family that we simply did not know where their missing relative is, and that we had done all we could to try to find her.

IMSARU participants included Danny Cone, Ann Finley, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, George Gunn (O.L.), Carl Kidwell, Mac Macintosh, Clint Matthews (VSAR), Ron Moomey, Phil Sander, Lori Thompson, Rick Thompson, Kris Walker, Rick Webster, Mark Westerdoll, Everett Wood, Jimmie Yorgensen. Garden Valley Fire Department personnel were Phil Palmiotto, Bob Stevenson and Zack Turner.

WATER WORKOUT WEEKEND AT CODY, WY—JUNE 23-24, 2007 **--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

Assembling the resources and organizing the exercises for training water search K9 teams is a stupendous amount of work, and we consider ourselves lucky to be able to travel to such an activity rather than trying to pull together the location, boats and drivers, divers, scent pumps, eating and sleeping logistics, etc. on our own. This was the third time that Xena, George and I attended this session; we ate and slept at the college research camp 30 miles up in the hills, and did the search training at Newton Lake just outside of Cody.

There were two inflatable boats both days, a diver the first day, multiple scent sources along the shore, in deeper water and in the field above the lake. Many handlers pitched in to set up the problems, and each handler could pick the problems appropriate for her dog’s age and level of experience. There were young dogs that had never been on a boat, handlers just starting water search training, experienced land cadaver teams, and experienced water search teams who already had multiple finds to their credit. It was especially valuable that handlers who so wished could be coached by experienced individuals who cheerfully shared observations and suggestions. Most of us already know that the great majority of K9 search errors are the fault of the handler—not of the dog—but a fresh pair of eyes can often see what we are doing wrong and help us change behaviors. I especially thank K.T. and Marcia for their coaching on Saturday, when they persuaded me to get out of Xena’s way and let her search more freely.

On Sunday I took their advice and Xena did a good job of solving her blind test problem. She is now certified by Northwest K-9 as a water search dog. Thank you, K.T. Irwin, for making this possible. It’s also nice that you persuaded the area rattlesnakes to go elsewhere for these two days.

(Continued from page 1.)

In the Thorn Creek area. When she did not return, relatives searched then drove out to a phone and called the Boise County S.O. Deputy John Krempe went into the area, which is steep and very brushy, and called for our help. We left the Compound at 3:15 p.m. and drove up Highway 21, past signs for Robie Creek Road, Daggett Creek Road, Grimes Creek Road...sure that Thorn Creek Road was there—but no sign. We were four miles past it when the deputy contacted us by radio and then led us in from the highway on the narrow dirt roads.

Once on site, it became the kind of mission that makes everyone feel good and that looks to outsiders as though this is easy. George parked the motor home as base camp; Bill, Everett and Ron set off on ATVs to check roads and trails, Carl interviewed family members for information on likely footprints and went out to search for same, and three K9 teams with two people each searched various structures and areas around them before heading out on trails. Carl found prints of the right size and worked his way up; Linda and Smokey headed up the same way and they did a perfect interactive search: When Smokey wanted to veer off to the right, Carl looked in that area and found the prints...until Anita answered their calls.

She was seated on a very steep slope made slippery by pine needles. She stated that she had set off to walk to a survey marker that she often visited but had missed it and become disoriented. She was hot, very dehydrated, and blood pressure was unstable, but was quite alert and cheerful. It required a bit of persuasion for her to accept a ride in our wheeled litter, but team members were adamant that the steep, slippery slope would be safer that way; they also requested a Basic Life Support transport to meet them at the family cabin. The family agreed that grandma should have a medical checkup and followed the Mores Creek Ambulance in to the hospital to bring her home again late that night after rehydration, cardiac check and some adjustment to medications. Daylight was fading by the time we headed out to the highway, and we are grateful to the staff of the Gold Mine Café in Idaho City who stayed late to feed us supper.

IMSARU participants included Danny Cone, Ann Finley, Collin Garner, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, George Gunn (O.L.), Tim Henning, Linda Kearney with Smokey, Tom Kearney with in-training dog Breeze, Carl Kidwell, Bill Lindenau with ATV, Clint Matthews, Ron Moomey on ATV, Dan Scovel, Kris Scovel, Kris Walker and Everett Wood with ATV. Rod Knopp handled in-town coordination.

MANY THANKS TO:

Idaho Good Sam, Capitol City Gypsies Chapter for a cash donation.

The Family of Wanda Evans for a cash donation.

Dave Richardson for donating technical gear.

We greatly appreciate the financial support, and also the emotional support these donations represent.

**STANDBY IN CUSTER COUNTY – JULY 25, 2007
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

The remains of a 24-year-old man who disappeared after reaching the top of Grand Mogul, near Redfish Lake, on July 15, 2006, were found by Sawtooth Mountain Guides on July 24 of this year. Custer County requested that we send a technical team to stand by in case of problems or injury during their recovery of the remains on July 25. Seven of our team members responded to this safety request, but were not needed in action.

IMSARU members responding were Tim Henning, Wade Kimball, Bill Lindenau, Bob Meredith, Dominick Merrell, Owen Miller and Rick Thompson.

**AUTISTIC, DEAF AND 9 YEARS OLD
SEARCH IN BOISE CITY--JUNE 14, 2007
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

The pagers went off at midnight: A 9-year-old boy was missing from his home in Boise and the Boise P.D. requested our help in looking for him. The officers had already checked the family residence and immediate neighborhood, as well as Barber Park, which was apparently a favorite destination for the child. They had found no trace of the child nor of his blue-and-white mountain bike, which was also missing.

We responded with 12 members. The officer in charge asked us to check two major irrigation canals and the outlying areas from Barber Park. Tom, with his in-training dog Breeze, and Dave drew the Ridenbaugh Canal, which they worked from Barber Park to Apple Street. Linda with Smokey, Dominick on his bike, Dan and Jimmie were assigned to work outward from the perimeter of Barber Park; this included parts of the Boise River and some major vegetation. Charlotte with Xena, Carl and Clint walked the New York Canal from just above the park to Federal Way and on down to Broadway. Well, actually Carl and Clint walked the whole way. Maybe a quarter of a mile short of Federal Way, we hit a patch of goatheads that pretty much crippled Xena; unable to see how far that patch stretched, Charlotte and Xena retraced their route to the park while Carl and Clint continued...finding two very high fences that it would have been difficult to pass with a 75-pound Shepherd had she gone that way. Ron was kept busy shuttling equipment and people to various locations.

Both canal teams had pretty much completed their assignments when we got the call that Team 1 had found the boy's bicycle in Barber Park as they were returning to base after their sweep: Smokey had wanted to head over toward the building under construction, and Linda followed him to the bike. Within a few minutes, an officer went on foot to some heavy construction equipment parked a short distance from the bike, shined his flashlight into the cab of each vehicle, and was startled when the 9-year-old popped up, grabbed the officer's flashlight and disappeared, chortling, to the floor of the cab. He had apparently settled in for the night, would not have heard any of the searchers, and we'll never know whether he saw them earlier or was sound asleep by the time they arrived. The child refused to come out of the vehicle cab to the police officer, so the P.D. called for a fire truck; that was apparently more attractive and the youngster came out.

It was broad daylight by the time we left the scene. About half of our searchers then went to work after the sleepless night, but knowing they had done well for someone in need. It is impossible to imagine how difficult and exhausting it would be to keep track of an active 9-year-old who is both deaf and autistic (degree and form of autism unknown to us). All we can say is that we could never refuse a request to help with such a situation.

IMSARU members responding included David Gomez, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, George Gunn (O.L.), Linda Kearney with Smokey, Tom Kearney with Breeze, Carl Kidwell, Wade Kimball, Clint Matthews, Dominick Merrell, Ron Moomey, Dan Scovel, Jimmie Yorgensen. Rod Knopp spent the night at the Compound, doing in-town coordination.

K9 WATER SEARCH SEMINAR IN WINSTON, MT—JULY 13-15, 2007 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

You don't know where Winston, MT is? It's just north of Townsend. OK, try a bit southeast of Helena. White Earth Campground is on Canyon Ferry Reservoir and it's only about 1150 miles round-trip from here; Friday-the-13th vehicular woes surely won't happen again (reference trip to Reno SARCON in April); and Jonni Joyce is the instructor. Let's go!

There were twelve dogs, ranging from young ones with no water experience to experienced water K9s whose handlers never stop training for improvement, and 3 or 4 auditors. Jonni started with classroom instruction in the campground shelter, covering some scent theory, training and search techniques, and answers to questions. We then moved to a nearby bay that is less popular with the general public. Divers and their support personnel, boats and drivers, scent pumps for shoreline search.... It's a huge undertaking to set up such a training.

During the first two days, each dog team was on the water with Jonni both morning and afternoon, usually making three runs while there. The first exercise was directly to the diver, to assure the dog that there was something wonderful to be found under the water. (The diver surfaced with the dog's favorite toy or, for the food-oriented, a hot dog.) After that the exercises varied according to the dog's experience level and what the handler wanted to work on, including the option of working cadaver scent from a different boat. Those awaiting their turn could sit in the shade, play with their dogs in shallow water to cool off and/or work the shore search problems.

The local hosts supplied continental breakfasts, generous sack lunches and the burgers for Saturday evening's potluck cook-out. We all moaned about the heat and the tiny but hungry mosquitoes, but at least there was a breeze much of the time at the training bay. Sunday was more informal, with individual handlers doing shore problems or waiting for one last session in the boat before starting home.

Many thanks to Kim Gilmore, Cherie Moldenhauer and their crew for all their work in setting up this training opportunity, and to the divers, boat drivers and others who contributed their skills to make it happen. And thanks, Jonni, for sharing your experience, skills and artistic talent to help each team move further along in training.

IMSARU participants were Tom Kearney with Midge, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, Ann Finley and George Gunn as auditors. And the fuel pump on the motor home did not quit until Sunday the 15th, a bit south of Butte.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF SEARCH

--ANN FINLEY

Question: How many IMSARU members does it take to buy a digital headlamp?

Answer: At least seven, if a recent shopping expedition by IMSARU and VSAR members is any indication.

A tour of outdoors stores evolved out of a discussion that ensued when new member Maureen asked veteran backpacker Carl for pointers on what to look for when buying items required for her 24-hour pack. The next day, several people convened at REI. After a hasty search of the aisles, it became evident that Maureen wasn't the only one looking to buy. The decision was made to expand the search area; that is, to check out every outdoors store in Boise and Meridian, with the possibility of returning to REI for a Type III search.

We had overlooked one factor: Stores do close eventually. We covered five more stores before this unpleasant reality became evident. As parking lots emptied, we moved base camp to Whitewater for nachos, pizza and debriefing. A lighthearted suggestion was made that IMSARU should have a shopping team. After all, we have a tech team, a K-9 team, a medical team, a mantracking team.... The unanimous decision: We need to do this again!

Participants included: Maureen Ericksen, Ann Finley, Linda Kearney, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Clint Matthews and Zack Winkler.

WATER TRAINING – JULY 14, 2007

--LINDA KEARNEY

How do you spell a fun learning experience? w-a-t-e-r t-r-a-i-n-i-n-g. Arriving at the Compound at 9 a.m., we gathered items we would need—901, PDFs, throw ropes and cold drinking water. We found the coordinates, plugged them into our GPS unit, but already had a good idea where we were going...down on the Boise River, of course. We drove in a line, following our GPS arrows, and found Kris waiting for us with his famous “banana boat.”

Kris looked at the group and asked what we wanted to learn that day. None of us were sure and so left the choice in his capable hands. He gave us the task of getting an injured person (very loose use of the term) off an island, and asked how we were going to do it. First we put Mac in charge. We then looked over the situation. Couldn't walk a team over—too deep and the water was running at about 4 mph. There were too many branches in the way, so the line gun was out. We decided to scout out a place above the subject in order to get the boat across. Safety is always first. Rick is an experienced rafter and Danny has the most medical training. Two team members had a spot downstream with throw ropes in case the team didn't get back across and ended up headed away from us. I must say they made the crossing look easy; they were across in no time and right to the subject.

We were in radio contact; when they stopped laughing and making jokes about the subject, we changed plans. Rather than Rick and Danny paddling back across, we would use a throw line to get a rope to them and pull them across. We had many attempts to get a throw line across. It isn't easy! The line slides through your fingers so you can't get a good throw. At one point I thought for sure Danny and Rick were going to float down-river while trying to get the throw line. Kris eventually got the line to them. A team moved upstream in order to prevent them going down any farther while we pulled them across. The patient was packaged and ready to go. The team downstream was ready, just in case they came by. Back came the boat to our shore and we took the patient up to the Green Belt. He reminded people of Sponge Bob—a big square head with a happy face drawn on, with square body and tubing for hands and feet. We put away the equipment from that exercise, took a break, and decided what to do next.

It was obvious that we should learn how to better use throw ropes. We took turns floating down the river while the others threw lines to us. We always had three people with lines, with the more experienced members being the last of the three; that was your last hope if the first two missed as you floated by. Good thing that third person was there when I was tossing the line! You are going to drown if you count on me; I throw “like a girl.” It was a learning experience. The river was also surprisingly cold for July. It was a little shocking when you first sat in the water to take your turn to float. Four miles an hour doesn't sound like a fast current, but it was really hard to walk out alone. Thank you Carl, for getting me into the river, Lori for making sure I received the throw line, and Wade for helping me out of the river. Thanks also to Clint for rearranging the back of 901. And we don't forget Kris, as this day wouldn't have happened without him. Thank you, Kris, for taking time to show us the ropes around water. Everyone went home wet but safe.

Participants were Danny Cone, John Ferguson, Linda Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Wade Kimball, Mac Mackintosh, Clint Matthews, Lori Thompson, Rick Thompson, and instructor Kris Walker.

CORN BOOTH! CORN BOOTH! CORN BOOTH! **– AUGUST 17-26**

It's almost half our budget for the year; it's almost here; we are counting on lots of volunteer help. Members, families including teenage children, friends, neighbors, co-workers...lots of opportunities to see the Western Idaho Fair from a different angle. We need 20 or so people to set up the booth, beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, August 11, 6 to 12 people per shift every day the Fair is open, and another big crew to take down the booth beginning at 3 p.m. on Monday, August 27. See the calendar for all the dates and times. **If you haven't already volunteered to work, call Diane Mathews at 375-3671 today!** And if she calls you, please say **Yes**.

CALENDAR

- Aug. 11 (Sat.) Set up Corn Booth at Fairgrounds, beginning at 8 a.m.
- Aug. 12 (Sun.) Finish setting up Corn Booth as needed, beginning at 8 a.m.
NOTE: Tom Kearney is in charge of set-up and take-down.
 Contact him if you have questions.
- Aug. 17-26 Corn Booth at the Western Idaho Fairgrounds. We are contracted to sell from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. Shifts run from 10 a.m. until 5-5:30 and from 5-5:30 until about midnight.
- Aug. 27 (Mon.) Take down the Corn Booth. Meet at the Fairgrounds as soon as you get off work. People will be there from 3 p.m. on.
- | | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| Sept. 4 | General Meeting | 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound |
| Sept. 8 | K9 Training – Call Ann Finley at 336-1485 | |
| Sept. 11 | K9 Handlers' Meeting
SAR Training | 6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
At the Compound |
| Sept. 15-16 | SAR Field Training | Time & Place
T.B.A. |
| Sept. 18 | Medical Training | 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound |
| Sept. 23 | K9 Training – Call Winston Cheyney at 345-6329 | |
| Sept. 25 | Business Meeting | 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound |
| Oct. 2 | General Meeting (includes opportunity for ID Photos for those who need them) | 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound |
| Oct. 9 | SAR Training | 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound |
| Oct. 13-14 | SAR Field Training | T.B.A |
| Oct. 16 | Medical Training | 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound |
| Oct. 23 | Business Meeting | 7:30 p.m.
At the Compound |

Emergency Preparedness Pointers



HEAT WAVE



Heat kills by pushing the human body beyond its limits. During an average summer, approximately 200 people across our country die due to heat related injuries as a result of high summer temperatures. Under normal conditions, the body's internal thermostat produces perspiration that evaporates and cools the body, however, in extreme heat, evaporation is slowed and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal body temperature. Most heat disorders occur because the victim has been overexposed to heat or has overexerted themselves for their age and physical condition.

Terms to Know

Heat Cramps – muscular pains and spasms due to heavy exertion. They usually involve the abdominal muscles or legs. Loss of water and dehydration from heavy sweating typically causes heat cramps.

Heat Exhaustion – occurs when people exercise heavily or work in a hot, humid place where body fluids are lost through heavy sweating. Blood flow to the skin increases, causing blood flow to decrease to the vital organs. This results in a form of mild shock. If not treated, the victim's condition will worsen. Body temperature will keep rising and the victim may suffer heat stroke.

Heat Stroke – is life-threatening. The victim's temperature control system, which produces sweat to cool the body, stops working. The body temperature can rise so high that brain damage and/or death may result if the body is not cooled quickly.

During a Heat Wave

- ✓ **Slow down.** Avoid strenuous activity. If you must, do it during the coolest part of the day.
- ✓ **Stay indoors** as much as possible. If air conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor, away from any windows.

- ✓ **Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.** Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy.
- ✓ **Drink water regularly,** even if you're not thirsty. Your body needs water to keep cool.
- ✓ **Avoid drinks with alcohol or caffeine.** They will only make the heat's effect on your body worse. They are diuretics, which actually dehydrate your body.
- ✓ **Eat small meals** and avoid foods that are high in protein, which increase metabolic rate.
- ✓ **Wear sunscreen** with an SPF of at least 15. Not only can sunburn damage the skin, but even mild sunburn can keep the skin from compensating for excessive heat.

Symptoms of Heat Emergencies

Heat Exhaustion – Cool, moist, pale or flushed skin; heavy sweating; headache; nausea or vomiting; dizziness and exhaustion. Body temperature will show near normal.

Heat Stroke – Hot, red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse and rapid, shallow breathing. Body temp can be very high. The skin will be hot, dry, red or flushed, even under the armpits.

Treatment of Heat Emergencies

Heat Cramps - Get the person to rest in a comfortable position in a cooler place. Lightly stretch the affected muscle and replenish fluids. Give half a glass of water – approx 4-6 oz. – every 15 minutes. Do not give liquids containing caffeine or alcohol.

Heat Exhaustion – Get the person out of the heat. Remove or loosen tight clothing and apply cool, wet cloths or towels. If the person is conscious, give cool water to drink, approx 4-6oz. every 15 minutes. Make sure they drink slowly. Do not give liquids with caffeine or alcohol. Have the victim rest and watch for changes in their condition. 

Heat Stroke – This is a life-threatening condition. Help is needed right away. Call 911 immediately. Find a cooler place, lay the person down and work quickly to cool their body. If possible, immerse them in a cool bath or wrap them in wet sheets or cloths and fan them. Watch for any breathing problems. If the person is vomiting or there are changes in consciousness, do not give them anything to drink. Keep the person lying down and continue to cool the body any way you can until medical help arrives.



FAREWELL TO MINGO

Those who have been with us for a few years will remember Leslie Robertson and her English Shepherd, Mingo, who were active in so many missions. (Yes, that English Shepherd was the black and white dog that looked like a Border Collie on steroids.) We have received the sad news that Mingo died on July 26. Mingo was a very special search dog and family dog, and will be missed by all who knew him.



ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION FOR K9 TEAM

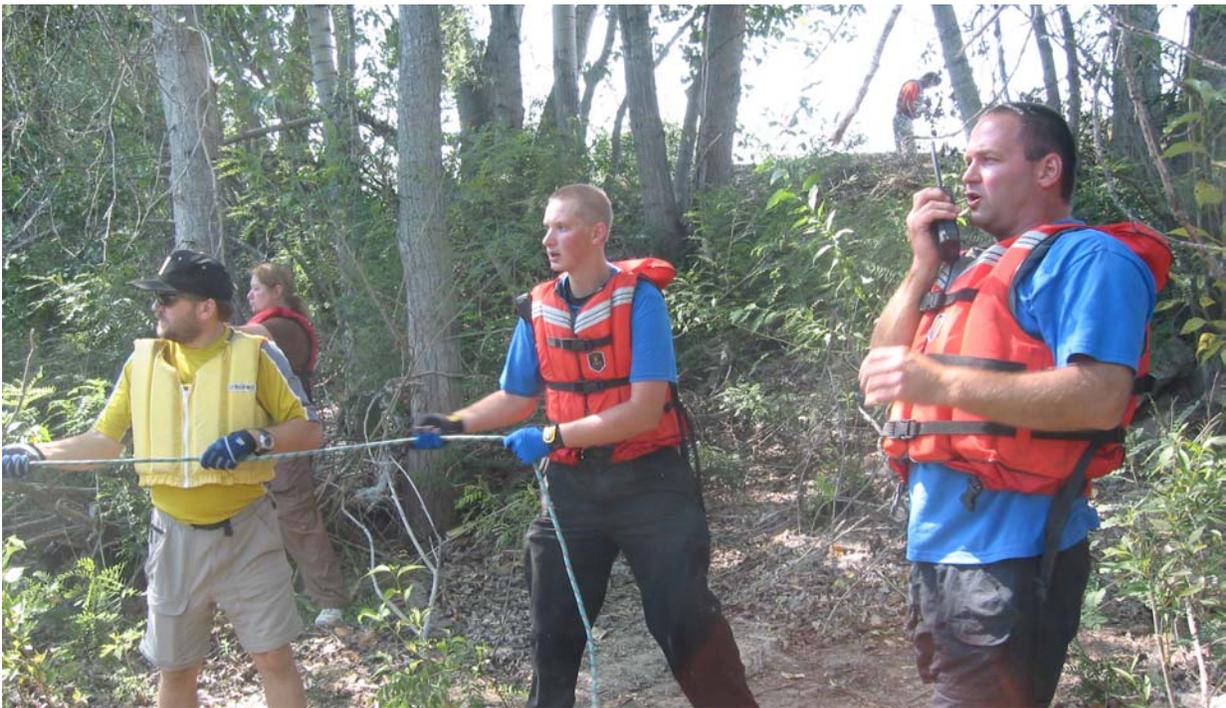
Charlotte Gunn and Xena are happy to announce that they passed their water search test during the K9 seminar in Cody in July. They received Water Cadaver Certification from Northwest K-9 Search and Recovery, using Tri-State standards.



Xena has the scent; Charlotte has Xena's tail. -Photo by A. Finley



This view of Grand Mogul from Redfish Lake greeted our team as they arrived for the mission. Story on page 5.
-Photo by K. Walker



Unit training in water safety see page 7.

-Photo by K. Walker