

WEB EDITION

RESCUE

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

**FOUNDING MEMBER:
MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



**FAMOUS POTATO MARATHON – MAY 19, 2008
--RICK THOMPSON**

On May 1, IMSARU received a request to provide medical support for the 30th annual Famous Potato Marathon sponsored by the YMCA. As with most requests, our members responded quickly and en masse. Ten members volunteered to staff the race.



Collin supplies first aid to Mr. Spuddy Buddy.

—Photo by T. Kearney

Race day, May 19, dawned clear and HOT. Weather forecasts called for temperatures in the mid- 90's. The forecast was accurate. The high for the day was in the vicinity of 95 degrees and our biggest concern was the potential for heat-related illness and injuries, with temperatures increasing from 65 to 95 degrees in less than a week. The marathon could have easily been named “hot potato” or “baked potato”.

We were very pleasantly surprised, however. No major injuries were encountered; a couple of **(continued on page 4)**

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K9 WATER CADAVER SEMINAR WAS A SPLASHING SUCCESS **McCALL, IDAHO MAY 30-JUNE 1, 2008** **--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

We did worry right up to the last minute: Ice stayed on Payette Lake the latest it has in 100 years and snow cover prevented the usual outdoor maintenance. (Ponderosa Park couldn't open their campground for Memorial Day weekend despite having all spaces reserved.) And when things finally melted, it was rainy season. However, what's a little mud underfoot when you have a snug bunk in a heated building, warm showers as needed, tasty meals prepared for you three times a day, and the chance to train your dog for locating bodies under water?



Winston steadies Skadi as she finds the scent.

—Photo by K. Juda

Instructor Jonni Joyce did an excellent job of organizing the three-ring circus, giving an introductory class to the whole group and feedback to individual teams. Dogs wanting their favorite toys as reward received them from the divers when they surfaced and those that work for food earned hot dogs. (When wearing diving gloves, it's impossible to hold on to those little bitsy pieces of dog treats that many handlers use for land training.) During the on-water sessions we had two boats running simultaneously, working one or two divers each for two or

three passes. Each boat carried a coach, Jonni or Dave, as well as the K9 team and sometimes an observer. In between turns on the boats, handlers could work their dogs on land cadaver problems or give them time to rest or even play in the COLD water.

The twelve K9 teams came from Alaska, Nevada and Washington, as well as Bonneville County, Clearwater County and IMSARU. Why would anyone travel that far for training? Because we learn from each other as well as from the instructor and because it takes a tremendous amount of resources to set up water training. We could not have done this without the McCall Fire Department Dive Team, who not only voluntarily spent hours bobbing up and down in the cold water to motivate the dogs but also provided boats, boat drivers and line handlers. Thank you, thank you, thank you, McCall Fire Department Dive Team! Wade Kimball brought his boat up from the valley and spent a day and a half ferrying dog teams over the lake to work their problems; his boat has a lovely flat bow platform near the water—perfect for the canine noses. We also thank Dave Ferguson, from Bonneville County, who signed up as an observer but then spent full time as a coach and helping George with all the background tasks that kept events running smoothly. Kim and Ann brought breakfast for the first morning; Ann not only brought cadaver material but set up the land problems and wrote out the information for handlers who wanted to try them.

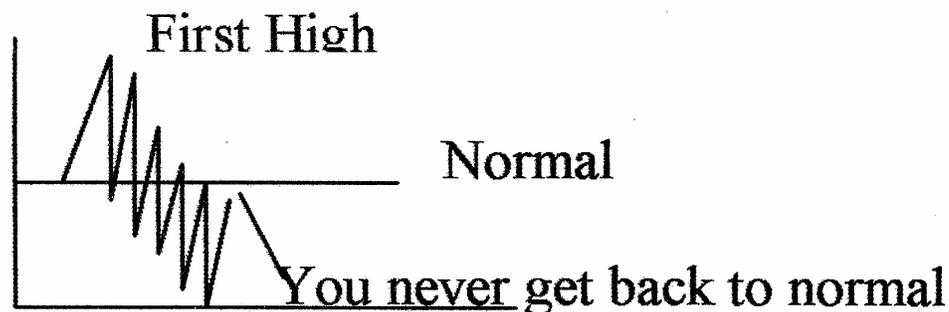
And Josh and Judy, camp manager and cook, went out of their way to make us comfortable. And last but not least, dog handlers all pitched in whenever a hand was needed. It was a lot of work to put on this seminar, but it would have been impossible without such great people to work with.

IMSARU teams attending were Winston Cheyney with Skadi, Kim Juda with Kiwi, Ann Moser with Watson, Charlotte Gunn with Xena, and George Gunn as man-of-all-trades.

METH LAB—SCENE SAFE? —LORI THOMPSON

As part of the Emergency Medical Responder training, Ann Finley, Wade Kimball, Rick Thompson and I were allowed to attend a Meth Lab training session sponsored by the Owyhee County Sheriff. The class was a real eye-opener. Did you know?

- Most illegal drugs like cocaine start out on the east coast and have traveled to the west coast. However, meth has traveled from the west to the east coast.
- Most of the meth is being exported to the US from Mexico through highways 95 & 51. Boise is a primary distribution center.
- 90% of all crimes in Idaho are tied back to meth.
- Meth labs can smell like gasoline, ether, vinegar, baby diapers, cat wet.
- If you walk into a meth lab, don't turn on/off the electricity or stop any running water. Sometimes the electricity is used as a booby-trap. Running water cools the meth process.
- Some common items in a meth lab include: Drano, camera batteries, Red-Devil lye, Coleman fuel, ephedrine, turkey baster, sports bottles or pop bottles, Mason jars, milk jugs taped together, book matches. Also, watch for red-stained coffee filters.
- 8-ball means 1/8 ounce of meth; tainer=1/16 ounce; Cook is doing most of the making and the Chef is the trainer.
- Quote from meth user: "I used meth the first time because I didn't know; I used meth the second time because I didn't care."
- Meth used to cost about \$150 per ounce and now runs about \$1300 per ounce.
- "Chasing the Dragon": You can never reach that first high again and it's like an alcoholic craving but 100 times worse. Your body is your payment.



(**cont. from page 1**) cases of heat exhaustion and some blisters were about it. The high point for the medical team came when aid was provided to Mr. Spuddy Buddy (see photo). After receiving the high level of care and treatment typically given to IMSARU subjects, Spuddy returned to greeting race participant and spectators.

During the race, we tested the deployment of bicycles along the course to get an idea of their usefulness in searches. Initial feedback would support developing this capability for use in future searches. Bike teams could be highly effective in urban searches, in containment in backcountry environments and in covering a great deal of territory fairly quickly (depending on the physical condition of the rider). They also have the advantage of being quieter than motorized vehicles.

IMSARU members participating in the support to the race included: Lynde Christensen, Collin Garner, Chris Harry (communications), Carl Kidwell, Wade Kimball (bike), Owen Miller, Patti Miller, Ron Moomey (bike), Vicki Moss, Andrew Parrish (Bike), Lori Thompson and Rick Thompson (bike).

NOTICE: WE ARE RE-DOING OUR DUES!

Our members pay yearly dues to IMSARU. Most of this fee goes to cover the dues which the group then pays to state (ISSAR) and national (MRA and NASAR) organizations. The complication is that we collect dues for the calendar year, saying members can pay by the first meeting in April, but all three organizations want a list of our membership in January. This means that we are sending in a list of who were active members in the year just ended, not who will be the active members in the coming year. With the amount of membership turnover that is common to a volunteer SAR group, this process means we are always outdated. So, at the last quarterly Board meeting, the following policy was adopted.

NEW POLICY: Beginning this fall, we will collect dues in advance for the coming year. Your dues for 2009 must be paid before election night in order for you to vote for the 2009 officers. [Elections are supposed to be the first meeting in October; they are sometimes postponed to the first week in November.] In order to be listed as an active member with the state and national organizations, your 2009 dues must be paid before January 1, 2009. Our Treasurer will hold these advance dues payments in a special category until he applies them to the 2009 budget. Questions? Talk to Phil, Jerry or Charlotte.

THE STARS SHONE IN IDAHO – MAY 10, 2008

--CHARLOTTE GUNN

Don Hefner's daughter, Angela, is an independent film maker and she needed a search and rescue scene for the film she is currently shooting. So, about a dozen of us went up Bogus Basin Road in the early evening to the area where she had a permit to film and where a snowbank still remained in the trees beside the road. With vehicles carefully parked, lots of orange shirts, George in the only speaking role as O.L., and one search dog in her shabrach, we performed for the cameras. We learned something about how camera angle can transform a scene, had fun imagining ourselves as Important People at the Sundance Festival, and enjoyed the delicious pies from Volcanic Farms after filming was finished.

Search and rescue is a very serious business, but there are plenty of times when fun fits into the picture also. Stay tuned for the next Academy Awards.

WASHINGTON STATE SARCON – MAY 2008
--ANN FINLEY

Cashmere, located in the rain shadow of the Cascade Mountains, was a happy choice for the Washington State SAR Conference this year, serving up a combination of incomparable Pacific Northwest scenery with a chance of (mostly) clear weather. The Conference was scheduled for the weekend of May 16-18, and attendees, including several IMSARU members, began arriving earlier for the pre-conference workshops.

Six IMSARU members took part in a Joel Hardin Professional Tracking (JHPT) seminar that included 20 hours of tracking. Along with about 25 other professional and novice trackers, we drove into a narrow canyon that progressively shut off the view of precise orchards, steep dark evergreen forests and snowcapped mountains. We went down on our hands and knees, studying the ground from vantage points as near as six inches, alert for soil compression, bruised leaves, nesting, transference, toe digs, smooshage, and other telltale signs of disturbance. With the exception of smooshage, all these terms are in the lexicon familiar to trackers wherever the Joel Hardin program is taught. Smooshage, as far as I know, is a general term coined last summer at the IMSARU in-house training near Idaho City to cover sign that doesn't readily fit into only one category. It should be pronounced with a New Zealand accent.

The Conference proper began Friday noon. As usual, so many interesting classes were offered that no one person could fit them all in. IMSARU members hurried off in differing directions, usually to regroup at meals and compare notes.

For me, the highlight of the Conference was a realization of how well the old wilderness skills fit in with the new technology. In other words, horses and helicopters and GPSs can all save lives. Trackers and search dogs can make a search more efficient by establishing the direction of travel, while someone on an ATV may make the find. I strongly felt this wonderful sense of Team Effort. Meanwhile, I learned how to throw a diamond hitch, and a double diamond, but please don't ask for a demonstration.

IMSARU members attending included Danny Cone (who went as a rep of Malheur County, his other SAR affiliation), Ann Finley, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Linda Kearney, Dan Scovel and Kris Scovel. Danny and his wife did the ATV ride; all others took the mantracking class.

[Editor's Notes: My favorite SARCON class was "Myth, Misconception and Misunderstanding about Survival." I had never believed a solar still was workable, and was pleased to learn that a transpiration bag is a less labor-intensive version of the basic process. And as soon as I can afford it, I will exchange my space blanket for one of the lightweight silicone-impregnated tarps.

And two more compliments for the Chelan County people who hosted this year's event: Your catering service did an incredible job of feeding hundreds of people quickly. And the RV camping field with all the hookups was luxury; when the temperature hit 95° my long-haired search dog really appreciated our little motor home's air conditioning.]

STRANDED MOTORISTS – MAY 12, 2008
--CHRIS HARRY

The page went out mid-evening on Monday: our Coordinator was requesting a small but rapid response for two motorists stranded on Porter Creek Road outside of Horseshoe Bend. Carl and Chris responded to the Compound and were enroute with 901 within 30 minutes of the page. Truck 901 met Dan, Kris and Tom at the Home Depot at State Street and Highway 55 and all were on their way up the hill.

The two subjects had reportedly gotten their vehicle stuck in the snow “15 or 20 miles in” and were attempting to walk out. The 50-something male was from the valley and the 22-year-old male was visiting from New York. There was some concern when we learned that neither was prepared to attempt what they were doing. One of them was wearing a t-shirt and shorts; the other had bad knees. Night was fast approaching and temperatures in the high country were expected to drop to near freezing.

Rod spoke to them on their cell phone and strongly encouraged them to return to the warmth and safety of the vehicle (which is also where their GPS unit was) and await our arrival. They declined the advice and kept walking. Our crews located them on Porter Creek Road five miles from the highway, just minutes before nightfall. Though we never reached the vehicle (we don't rescue vehicles), there was a lot of doubt that they had traveled as far as they thought. It's highly unlikely that they could have walked ten or fifteen miles in the two hours between the call and our picking them up, especially on bad knees and in the snow.

We gave the two men a ride to Horseshoe Bend, where they called and waited for a wrecker out of Boise to retrieve the vehicle. The story we heard was that the young visitor to Idaho had wanted to try driving on snowy back-country roads. We doubt he'll want to repeat the experience, judging by his comment upon stepping out of our vehicle in Horseshoe Bend: “Thank God! Concrete!”

This mission was a tailored response, given the fact that we needed to get people to the subjects ASAP and we had a good idea of where they were. Those who called in to be available even though they didn't go on the initial response are greatly appreciated. This mission had the potential of going south on us in a hurry and it was a relief to us in the field that we had backup ready in Boise if we needed them!

Those who responded were Chris Harry, Carl Kidwell, Dan Scovel (O.L.), Kris Scovel, Tom Wheelless, and Rod Knopp (in-town Coordinator). I don't know who all was on standby for a second response but again, thanks!

REMINDER

Cell Phones

We are still collecting **Cell Phones** and associated electronics for recycling, and we receive a donation for the equipment we collect. Bring your old cell phones to the Compound. If you work in a place where such collection might be made, or frequent an appropriate business, ask if you can set up a box there and be responsible for emptying it as needed. We have plenty of boxes to distribute; talk to Jerry so he knows where they are.

CALENDAR

June 14	K9 Training – Contact Linda Kearney at 321-1175	
June 17	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
June 24	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
June 28	K9 Training – Contact Ann Finley at 336-1485	
July 1	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
July 8	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
July 13	K9 Training – Contact Ann Moser at 658-2273	
July 15	*SAR Training – In-house Mantracking Class	7:30 p.m.
July 17	(THURSDAY) *In-house Mantracking Class, continued This portion of the class may move to Friday if the group prefers.	7:30 p.m.
July 19-20	*In-house Mantracking Class continued in the Donnelly area	
July 22	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
July 26	K9 Training – Contact Charlotte Gunn at 378-7787	
July 29	*Clean and Inventory Corn Booth & Equipment	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 5	K9 Handlers' Meeting	6:00 p.m.
	*Load Corn Booth & Equipment	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 9	*Set up Corn Booth	9:00 a.m. At the Fairgrounds
Aug. 10	*Finish Setting up Corn Booth	10:00 a.m. At the Fairgrounds
Aug. 12	*Final details at the Corn Booth if needed.	
Aug. 15-24	*Corn Booth at the Western Idaho Fair (We sell 11 a.m. – 11 p.m., but extra time is prep and clean-up.)	10 a.m.-midnight daily
Aug. 25	(MONDAY) *Take down Corn Booth	As soon as you can after work. At the Fairgrounds

IF NOT OTHERWISE INDICATED, EVENT IS AT THE COMPOUND. ASTERISKS INDICATE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENTS IS ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE.

TIME FOR HOT BUTTERED CORN

OK, it's been a long cool spring and the corn you planted in your back yard hasn't even sprouted yet. However, it's time to get ready for our major annual fundraiser—selling hot buttered corn at the Western Idaho Fair. Preparations are already under way; YOU need to mark your calendar now.

Dates: Clean, repair, inventory, load Corn Booth and equipment on July 29 and August 5.

Set up the booth at the Fairgrounds on August 9 and 10; finish on the 12th if necessary.

SELL CORN August 15-24. We must sell from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day, which means we need lots of help. Call Diane Mathews at 375-3671 to volunteer; if she calls you first, say "Yes." Members, spouses, teenage children, adult relatives, neighbors and friends are all welcome; many of them greatly enjoy the behind-the-scenes experience at the Fair, so just ask them. We supply the entrance tickets; you and they shuck, cook, butter and wrap the corn and then sell lots of it.

Take down the booth on Monday, August 25, as soon as you can get to the Fairgrounds after work.

This is a huge project, but many hands make it possible. If we have 20-25 people to set up the booth and the same number to take it down, it goes quickly. If only half a dozen show up, it's impossible. Chris Harry is in charge of set-up and take-down; he will need your help. If you've never done this kind of thing before, you show up and someone will teach you. On every part of the project you can learn on the job.

JULY TRAINING: IN-HOUSE MANTRACKING CLASS

If you want to take this class, please contact Kris or Dan Scovel immediately at 376-7573. They need to know how many IMSARU members plan to participate so they can open it to neighboring SAR groups if the class is not full. Space is limited! On Tuesday, July 15, and Thursday, July 17, the class will meet at the Compound at 7:30 p.m. and run for about two hours. (The Thursday portion may switch to Friday if participants agree that would be better.) All day Saturday, July 19, and Sunday until about 2 p.m., the class will continue with field practice in the Donnelly area.

This class is for everyone—beginner, novice with some experience, Basic. Apprentice Trackers Kris, Dan and George Gunn will be the instructors, assisted by Basic-certified members. Cost is as minimal as you can get--\$10 for the book if you don't already have one. The weekend portion will be a camp-out. The group will decide during first meeting(s) whether to organize joint meals or each prepare our own.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bike Team

Several members are interested in forming a **Bike Team** to add to our non-motorized capabilities at public service events and when searching off-road areas that have trails. The team needs to draw up policies and procedures once they know how large a group it will be. If you are interested, contact Rick Thompson at 389-1166 or rthompson@spro.net

TRACKING FOOTNOTES – MAY 2008

--LINDA KEARNEY

In May there were two Joel Harding mantracking classes attended by IMSARU members. The first was a pre-conference class at the Washington State SARCON in Cashmere. The novices learned to set up a tracking stick, draw a footprint, and follow it. All others worked a challenging scenario, which included really stinky deer carcasses. IMSARU members attending this class were Ann Finley, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Linda Kearney, Dan Scovel and Kris Scovel.

The second class was two weeks later at Camp Sanders, 30 miles north of Moscow, attended by Ann Finley and Linda Kearney. It was beautiful country, with plenty of trees, hills, and rain, and we still had a great time. This was Ann's first time with a scenario. (See next paragraph.) We were also learning sign-cutting and note-taking. We have to write a report on the scenario, including a hand-drawn map. These are some of the many things Joel teaches in his class.

Congratulations to our newest certified member of the tracking team! Ann Finley received in person the news that she had qualified as Basic Tracker when she went to the mantracking class at Camp Sanders. The story is this: Joel Harding classes start everyone in the same room. We then split into two groups, with the novices in one and the certified members in another. Ann went in with the novices but Joel asked her to leave. Her first thought was she was tossed out of class all together. Then the nickel dropped and she realized she was going to play with the "big kids". In Joel Harding classes you don't move up due to the number of classes you take. You can only advance with the ability to see sign. And you can only learn to see sign by looking at the dirt. It takes time, patience, and lots of work. Is it worth it? Ask any member of our tracking team.

One more piece of news is that there is now a new organization of trackers in Idaho. It's called Idaho State Tracking Association or ISTA for short. It is open for anyone who is certified Basic or above and wants to join. Members are then placed on a list to be called anywhere in the state to track when needed.

RACE TO ROBIE CREEK - "RUN YOUR KILT OFF" - APRIL 19, 2008

--CHARLOTTE GUNN

We expected the worst: With winter refusing to quit, a week before the race the shaded downslope just over the summit was a sheet of ice; the snowbanks beside the road blocked the usual parking and service areas; the forecast included more cold and precipitation. However, Ada County Highway Department did a heroic job of scraping and Mother Nature provided two very warm days to melt the white stuff. There were adjustments (normally the ham operators put their antenna, and we put our repeater, higher above the Summit) and the snow squall during morning set-up was discouraging, but it was actually quite decent running weather. The wind was cold for workers who spent hours outdoors and for runners who arrived sweaty at the finish, and those who decided to leave the party early and catch the bus to their vehicles joined the line with hundreds of others. However, there was lots of food and celebration, and not a lot of major medical incidents.

IMSARU provided first aid and communications, along with ham radio operators; Ada County EMS covered the front side of the course and Mores Creek Ambulance personnel the back side, though both moved to wherever needed. Various organizations again staffed the

water stations, and we all marveled at how the Sail Toads' race committee arranged everything from music to porta-potties to food service and T-shirts. Oh yes, I must mention the signs like "The Wind Beneath my Kilt," "Plaid is Rad" and "They That Dance Must Pay the Piper," and some creative kiltish outfits.

IMSARU members working included Lynde Christensen, Jeremiah Clever, John Ferguson, Collin Garner, Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Chris Harry, Aimee Hastriter, Jeff Hewitt, Mike Johnson, Kim Juda, Linda Kearney, Tom Kearney, Carl Kidwell, Karen Limani, Bill Lindenau, Mac Mackintosh, Owen Miller, Patti Miller, Jeff Munn, Dan Scovel, Kris Scovel, Tom Wheelless, Everett Wood, Avery Wynings, Josh Nichols, Lee Pierce, Lori Thompson and Rick Thompson. (The last four came up late, after completing their practical exam for First Responder--hoping to get more hands-on practice.) In addition, Ed Emmel put together our new repeater, Rod Knopp spent hours re-programming radios, there were at least two trips to scout the course conditions, and multiple members attended planning sessions, checked and restocked medical supplies, bought new supplies, etc. This "Toughest Race in the Northwest" is a major annual event and we are proud to be a part of it.

TECHNICAL TRAINING – MAY 31, 2008 --BRAD ACKER

Eight members of IMSARU's Technical Rescue Team assembled on Saturday morning for a day of training. With many SAR missions, things seemed to not go as planned, and on this day our training followed that axiom. Perhaps it was the observation that more people showed up for this training than had committed to attending—something that rarely happens. More likely it was the comment "From what I can remember, it's been a while..." when we were discussing the training location. However, those two preludes aside, we all loaded up and headed southeast to the Bruneau Canyon area. On this particular day, "we" means Eric Zuber, Phil Sanders, Jeff Munn, Bob Meredith, Mike Johnson, Aimee Hastriter, John Ferguson and Brad Acker.

After an hour or so of driving into the heart of the Bruneau Canyon area, past the earthen storage shelter that a pioneer family once retreated to during an Indian battle, past the hills dotted with two-dimensional battle tanks on the U.S. Air Force bombing range, past a road to the left...What?...STOP! That's our road! OK, it may not have been so easy to find out "that left" was the left we wanted, but for the sake of this article and to keep from discussing the particulars of how a road is defined in BLM regulations we turned around and took "that left." We soon found ourselves at the end of "that left" and could see our training area in the distance—the far distance. After consulting a map, we figured our destination was three miles and one deep canyon away. Back in the day when roads were used as more of a convenience than a legally bound obligation, this site was easier to get to. Not overly excited to hike our gear three-plus miles, we opted for lunch on this beautiful canyon edge overlooking one of the few fords of the Bruneau River and decided to head back to a different training area. I felt a little silly about not wanting to carry our small amount of equipment three miles as we overlooked steep switchback trails that pioneers somehow moved wagons down, across the river, and back up the other side.

We arrived at our new training area and were excited to get to work. We assembled and reviewed some anchor systems for the newer members. Our main focus was rappelling and ascending practice. We found a good 150' cliff and assembled our gear. The more experienced members zipped down the rope, eager to investigate the large amount of housewares at the bot-

tom of this canyon that had found their last useful purpose in life as targets. John and Mike took their time moving down the rope, as this was their first rappel out of the safety of our training platform at the Compound. Jeff, Eric and Brad got a chance to raise their heart rates by ascending back up the rope. It was not hard to talk Mike and John into a second trip down the rope and it was soon time to pack up and head home. We all had a good time, stayed safe and reinforced many of our group's protocols.

JOEL HARDIN PROFESSIONAL TRACKING SERVICES CLASS IN McCALL, IDAHO, SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2008

The class will be sponsored jointly by Valley County Search and Rescue and Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, for all interested Law Enforcement and SAR personnel. There are no prerequisites for this course; it is open to all persons with tracking interests, regardless of previous experience or training. Application for POST credit has been submitted for this 24-hour course. (Please inquire if you are interested in obtaining this accreditation.)

Date & Time: 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 12, through 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 14

Location: Pilgrim Cove Camp, 1075 Plymouth Road, McCall, ID

Tuition: \$310, payable to Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit (**Tuition includes meals & lodging.**)

Visit www.jhardin-inc.com/calendar.htm to obtain your registration form. Students must pre-register with a \$50 deposit toward tuition, meals and lodging arrangements. Class size is limited to 30 students. Register by mailing your deposit and registration form to: Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, Attn: Kris Scovel, 2519 Federal Way, Boise, ID 83705.

THIS CLASS IS ALMOST FULL!! IF YOU WANT TO JOIN, SEND DEPOSIT AND REGISTRATION TO KRIS SCOVEL IMMEDIATELY.

STRANDED CANOEISTS – MAY 9, 2008 --CARL KIDWELL

The page went out around 1:00 in the afternoon with the message “technical/swift water”. Responders calling into the Compound heard a brief description of a couple of canoeists stranded on the Middle Fork of the Boise River about four miles below Twin Springs. A large number of members responded quickly and within the hour several teams were on their way to the location.

As vehicles got closer to the reported location, the lead vehicle would turn off into any riverside roads or campgrounds to scout for our subjects in the river. Vehicles would then take turns “leap-frogging” to search for the exact location of our subjects. The runoff from this year's large snowpack filled the river. It looked cold and uninviting.

About the time the front vehicle reached Twin Springs, broken radio traffic from Boise County Sheriff's Office placed the subjects at approximately four miles above Twin Springs. That was good—we hadn't missed them. We went past Twin Springs. After about five miles past Twin Springs, we started getting nervous again—still no sign of the canoeists.

Six miles—not a trace. Seven miles—I would feel pretty stupid if I passed them already. Eight miles above Twin Springs there was a campground with a man sitting in a folding lawn chair. This man was not facing the river; he was facing towards the road. Obviously, something was more interesting to watch than the beautiful scenery that nature had provided. That prompted a quick stop to see if this man could provide any additional information. Before we could even ask, he pointed and said “They all went that way”, referring to other emergency vehicles. Turning the corner at ten miles past Twin Springs revealed numerous emergency response vehicles from Wilderness Ranch Fire and Rescue and the Elmore County Sheriff’s Office, along with several personal vehicles. This was either one heck of a cookout for emergency services or our subjects' location. Either way, I was going to stop there.

It was our subjects. IMSARU members began arriving just in time to watch Wilderness Ranch Fire and Rescue finish ferrying the two stranded canoeists (actually hunters who had used the canoe to cross the water) back from the other side of the river. Coincidentally, the subjects' camp was located on the road side just across the river from where they were stranded; now that is convenient. What little help we gave was in helping load the rescue boat back onto the trailer, but it was worth the trip to watch Wilderness Ranch Fire and Rescue perform. They did a great job of getting these stranded canoeists back safely. I am sure that we will be working with them in the future and watching them work confirmed our confidence in their abilities. The only casualty from the incident was a rescue boat engine that died, fortunately just as the boat was returning to the shore.

IMSARU members responding included Collin Garner, Chris Harry, Bill Kearns, Carl Kidwell, Wade Kimball, Bill Lindenau, Mac Mackintosh, Owen Miller, Patti Miller, Ron Moomey, Lee Pierce, Dan Scovel (OL), Rick Webster, Mark Westerdoll, Tom Wheless, Everett Wood, Avery Wynings, and Jimmie Yorgensen. George Gunn and Rod Knopp handled in-town coordination.

CABELA’S CAMPING/MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, 2008 **--TOM KEARNEY**

The Memorial Day weekend is a time for remembering fallen heroes, for families, picnics, camping and the annual Cabela's Memorial Day Weekend celebration. They invited IMSARU to participate this year.

Although it can be difficult to man PR events, especially during a holiday weekend, several members took time out of their busy schedule to help. We were fortunate to have a great location--just past the greeters at the front of the store. Chris Harry, (who worked all day, both days), brought his 72 hour pack and overflow bag. He put these items on display and explained their uses. We passed out pack lists, newsletters, and brochures. I brought Breeze, search dog in training, for the last hour on Sunday. As usual, she drew quite a few admirers. People gravitate more to a dog than they do to people with bright orange shirts.

Cabela's treated us great; they brought us fudge and roasted nuts to help keep us going. We met several people who expressed an interest in joining the unit. It was a worthwhile way to spend some of this weekend, and I think all who participated did some shopping during their breaks.

Many thanks to those that helped out: Chris Harry, Carl Kidwell, Mike Mancuso, Kim Juda, Ann Moser, Lee Pierce and his friend Ashley, Linda Kearney and Tom Kearney.

COMPOUND CLEANUP DAY – MAY 3, 2008 --LINDA KEARNEY

I want to thank those who gave up a Saturday to help. The weather was nice. The day started out with a page, and yet the clean-up happened. Ron, Kim and Tom W. attacked the main buildings. They spent hours working on the floors; I didn't know floors could shine like that. Kim killed off the dust bunnies in the office. George and Chris worked on the garage area, organizing and sweeping. A person interested in IMSARU stopped in to see what we were all about and ended up staying to help. Wade and John mounted a new antenna on the main building. Carl, John, Wade and I worked on the grounds to subdue weeds and brush. Trash was removed and old appliances hauled away. Wade made lunch special with his Dutch oven cooking; the stew and rolls were out of this world. Workers also had a choice of hot dogs and burgers from the grill. And what day would be complete without Charlotte's chocolate cake?



A technical exercise.
—Photo by G. Gunn

[Editor's Note: The grounds work was much less this spring because of Jimmie Yorgensen's efforts in lawn care and weed suppression. Wish my lawn and flower bed looked that good! Jimmie, if I draw you a map to our house AND bake a fresh batch of brownies...?]



Linda at the grill. —Photo by G. Gunn

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Ada/Elmore Employees' Community Assistance Fund and the *IDACORP, Inc. Shareholders* for a generous donation in memory of John Liggett and Phil Taylor

Idaho Capital City Kennel Club, Inc. for a cash donation.

Richard & Lorri Bunn of *Sun Ray Towing & Recovery, Inc.* in Ontario for donating the time and equipment to tow the 4wd ambulance which has been given to us by the *Crouch Ambulance Service*, to Danny's shop for evaluation.

Fraternal Order of Eagles Caldwell Auxiliary 3691 for another generous cash donation.

Former Member *David Anjelkovich* and the *HP U.S. Employee Product Giving Program* for a new Officejet Pro Printer to be used in our mission command operations

The Ralstons
bring their
side-scan
sonar to help
with a
drowning
search on
Brownley
Reservoir in
April.

Photo by S. Ralston



Scene at
the Race
to Robie
Creek
finish line
medical
station.

—Photo by G. Gunn