

**WEB
EDITION**

RESCUE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Search Organization with Elmore County -p. 1**
- Training Schedules -p. 2 and p. 4-7**
- Christmas Party Report -p. 8**

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

**FOUNDING MEMBER:
MOUNTAIN RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**



**POTENTIAL NIGHTMARE...RAN SMOOTHLY – OCTOBER 26, 2008
--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

A 50ish woman had been missing from the Fall Creek Campground since May. Her trailer was still parked but the car was not there and intensive searching by ground and air turned up no trace of the woman nor of her vehicle. Friends and relatives wanted to help look for the missing woman, and soon the media were inviting everyone to come join the search on Sunday, October 26. Predictions were that 200 or more people would show up.

Anyone who works in SAR in rugged terrain like Elmore County will shudder at the thought of hundreds of well-meaning spontaneous volunteers driving out to unfamiliar territory where many of the “roads” on maps are unfriendly to street vehicles. The Elmore County sheriff wisely made clear that this specific event was not **their** search but that they would offer some guidance to those who did participate, and ECSAR asked us to work with them on advance planning and serve as additions to the overhead team on The Day. Half a dozen of us joined ECSAR members at their Thursday evening meeting, where we talked through the logistics of



Jim and Jerry spent some time frowning at the computer.
—Photo by G. Gunn

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handling a potential huge crowd, pooled resources, and assigned specific tasks to individuals.

On Sunday morning, we were back in Mountain Home, delighted to have beautiful weather and ready to roll full speed. Boy, were those ECSAR people organized: huge parking area marked out, individuals directing traffic and handing out registration forms, signs directing spontaneous volunteers at every step, porta-potties, a computerized check-in at the entrance to their garage from which vehicles had been temporarily evicted, a paper backup for the inevitable moment when the computer network would crash (which it did with the very first set of data—but was up



Where assignments were made and recorded.

—Photo by C. Kidwell

and running again a bit later), coffee and a huge wall map of the search area to occupy groups while they waited a very few minutes to receive one of the pre-planned assignments (based on type of vehicle, the way individuals were dressed, and their seeming grasp of what they would be attempting—or lack thereof), a safety briefing as they exited the building on the opposite end....

There was even a separate area for family members who might wish some privacy.

The forty-five or so people who showed up to search were processed and on the road quickly and efficiently. Most of us IMSARU people just stood around and watched with smiles on our faces. It was excellent training for use of the ICS protocols and for any future events involving large numbers of the general public, and IMSARU and ECSAR always enjoy the chance to work together and learn from each other. The only thing that could have been better would have been for someone to find the missing woman or at least her car.

BASIC TECHNICAL TRAINING CLASS STARTING

There will be a new Basic Technical Training class in January. It will meet at 7 p.m. on each Monday of the month, beginning January 5, at the Compound. There will also be a session on the morning of Saturday, January 24. This class is not just for those who want to be super climbers and lead technical rescues, but for anyone who wants to learn the basics of how to do things safely and efficiently on technical terrain. You can then decide whether you want to pursue this skill further. Do note that this is not a class where you just drop in for an occasional session when you are in the mood; be sure to attend the first class if you plan to attend at all. For more information, talk to Training Director Owen Miller, who will be in charge of this training.

2009 DUES AND PAGER FEES ARE DUE NOW

Many members have already paid their 2009 dues in advance so that they could vote for 2009 officers or just because they do things ahead of time. If you think you paid but your name is not on the list below, check your checkbook info and then talk to Charlotte immediately. Remember that if you have not paid by January first, you will not be on our membership lists that go to the MRA, ISSAR and NASAR. You will not, however, be removed from our membership roll as long as you pay by mid-February.

2009 DUES PAID

Armstrong, Diane (new)
Barsness, Amanda (new)
Chitwood, Adam
Cline, Michael (new)
Cone, Danny
Engleman, Tony (life)
Ferguson, John
Finley, Ann
Fritchman, Kent (returning)
Garner, Collin
Gunn, Charlotte (life)
Gunn, George (life)
Harry, Chris
Henning, Tim
Johnson, Mike
Juda, Kim
Kearney, Linda
Kearney, Tom
Kidwell, Carl
Kimball, Irene (new)
Kimball, Wade
Klein, Bob (life)
Knopp, Rod (life)
Lindenau, Bill
Mancuso, Mike
Mathews, Diane
Meredith, Bob (life)
Miller, Beverly

Miller, Owen
Miller, Patti
Miller, William
Moomey, Ron
Moore, Daniel (new)
Morrison, Mike (returning)
Moser, Ann
Moss, Vickie
Munn, Jeff
Newland, Jerry
Nichols, Christine
Nichols, Josh
O'Bryan, Phil
Oren, David (new)
Sander, Phil
Scovel, Dan
Scovel, Kris
Strasser, Ted (life)
Thompson, Lori
Thompson, Rick
Thigpen, David
Vandivort, Martha
Ward, Martin Roberts, Jr. (new)
Webster, Rick
Wheless, Tom
Wood, Everett (life)
Yorgensen, Jimmie

There is no individual fee for use of a group pager—although there is serious discussion of requiring a deposit to ensure we get the pager back when someone no longer participates. If, however, you want a pager with a discrete number (which allows you to be paged individually, by family and friends to whom you give the number, as well as with the unit), then you need to pay the three dollars per month fee which IMSARU pays for use of that pager. If your math is weak, that is a fee of \$36 for the calendar year.

2009 PAGER FEES PAID: Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn, Chris Harry, Bill Lindenau.

TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 2009

JAN	Meeting 5 th This class will be held each Monday night (the 5 th , 12 th , 19 th) and Saturday the 24 th in the morning—about 10 hours total. The Tech team members will train in the afternoon on systems.	Field 24 th	Tech Basic class.
FEB	Meeting 2 nd Meeting 16 th	Field 21 st	Mechanical advantage and anchors.
MAR	Meeting 2 nd Meeting 16 th	Field 21 st	Technical snow mission.
APR	Meeting 6 th Meeting 20 th	Field 25 th	Winter Mountaineering
MAY	Meeting 4 th	Field 23 rd , 24 th & 25 th	Team snow climb. Location TBA
JUN	Meeting 1 st	Field 20 th	5th class climbing
JUL	Meeting 6 th	Field 25 th	Highline
AUG	Corn Booth (no scheduled training)		
SEPT	Meeting 7 th	Field 19 th	Team rock climb. Location TBA
OCT	Meeting 5 th	Field 24 th	Technical testing for Technician & Specialist
NOV	Meeting 2 nd	Field 21 st	General meeting to plan training. Complete testing for Technician & Specialist

NOTES

June's weekend training may be canceled because of the MRA conference at Mt. Hood.

All meetings start at 7:00 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

In winter months we will meet two Monday nights per month—the 1st and 3rd Mondays.

HAPPINESS IS A NEW PRINTER

Those of you who read the hard-copy version of our newsletter must have noticed that the print quality has deteriorated...and you haven't even heard the editor's unkind comments when the printer repeatedly jammed while duplexing or when the digital messages became illegible because so many pixels no longer lit up as needed. The basic problem, of course, is that the machine is old and tired. We have been using the same printer for almost ten years, not only for newsletters but also for maps, brochures, and various mass printings. We have the new printer installed and have tried it out on sample copies; we hope you will enjoy the improved quality.

If this issue still shows the same problems as the previous ones, you will know that some kind of gremlin grabbed us...and be glad you can't hear the editor's unkind comments.

CALENDAR

Jan. 5	Tech Basic Class begins	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 6	Business Meeting (to catch up from December)	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	K9 Training – Contact Kim Juda at 866-3150	
Jan. 12	Tech Basic Class 2	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 13	SAR Training – Snow Travel – Bob Meredith	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	SAR Field Training – Snow Travel	Time TBA
Jan. 19	Tech Basic Class 3	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 20	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	Tech Basic Class Field Training	Time TBA
Jan. 25	K9 Training – Contact Ann Moser at 658-2273	
Jan. 27	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	Tech Team Training – Mechanical Advantage & Anchors	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 3	SAR Training – Avalanche Review	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	K9 Training – Contact Tom Kearney at 321-1175	
Feb. 10	SAR Training – Shelters	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14-15	SAR Field Training – Travel to training area, build shelter, and spend the night. Avalanche Beacon & Probe Training on Sunday.	Time TBA
Feb. 16	Tech Team Training – Mechanical Advantage & Anchors	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 17	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Tech Team joint field training with Prairie QRU and Elmore County SAR. All unit members invited to attend. Details still tentative.	
Feb. 22	K9 Training – Contact Ann Finley at 336-1485	
Feb. 24	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.

Feb. 26	K9 Handlers' Meeting (Note: Thursday Night)	6:30 p.m.
Mar. 2	Tech Team Training	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 3	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 10	SAR Training	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 14	SAR Field Training	Time TBA
Mar. 16	Tech Team Training	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 17	Medical Training	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 21	Tech Team Field Training – Technical Snow Mission	Time TBA
Mar. 24	Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We appreciate the support of the people and organizations that have made these donations:

The Good Sam Club, Capitol Gypsy Chapter – cash donation

Michel Avionics Products (Scottsdale AZ) – two aircraft radios to improve communications when our missions include aerial search

Wentworth Aircraft, Inc. (Minneapolis MN) – two microphones with holders and two antennas for use with the above radios

Steve Smith, Air Conditioning & Heating Service of Meridian – major equipment and expertise to modify our HVAC at the Compound, extending heat into previously frigid spaces and starting the work necessary to add air conditioning before next summer

Donors to the **United Way of Treasure Valley** who designate funds for our support

The many friends and relatives who have volunteered to help us wrap gifts at Cabela's

Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, Inc. is an **all-volunteer** 501(c)(3) corporation, whose continued existence depends upon its members' work at fund-raising projects and the generous donations we receive. Our members supply their own equipment and donate their time (including many who take time off from paying work) *and we NEVER charge anyone for whom we search or whom we rescue.*

WINTER SKILLS TRAINING – JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Tis the season and the snow is bound to arrive soon. We already started our preparation with the Clothing and Equipment class on December 9. SAR training in January and February will focus on winter skills for the searcher and rescuer*, on the following schedule:

Tuesday, Jan. 13 – Snow Travel Saturday, Jan. 17 – Field Training: Snow Travel

Tuesday, Feb. 3 – Avalanche Review Tuesday, Feb. 10 – Winter Shelters

Saturday, Feb. 14 – Travel to training area, build shelters and spend the night**

Sunday, Feb. 15 – Avalanche Beacon and Probe training**

*Winter Skills training is required of all members who wish to achieve Search Specialist or Rescue Specialist status.

**This weekend will be joint training with Prairie QRU, who will help transport people via snowmobiles to the training area.

The following weekend, Feb. 21-22, all unit members are invited to take part in a joint training of the IMSARU Tech Team, Prairie QRU and Elmore County SAR. The planned incident will be a simulated snowmobile accident over the side of the road on Blacks Creek. (This exercise is in the planning stages right now, so is subject to change or cancellation.)

For more information, talk to Technical Director Bob Meredith, who will be in charge of these training sessions.

GPS TRAINING – NOVEMBER 11 AND 15, 2008 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

Thanks to David Gomez for helping some members become more comfortable with use of their GPS units. At the Tuesday evening class he explained some of the basics of the system, including such niceties as matching the machine to the map datum in use, and understanding the difference between lat-long and UTM.

On Saturday morning we met on the edge of the foothills and divided into teams of two or three to search for “SpongeBob SquarePants” in the form of bright yellow golf balls bearing letters that would—for the skilled or the lucky participants—match the coordinates on the list each team received. Dave had cutely arranged the coordinates so that UTM alternated with lat-long if one did them in the order listed; we all needed to practice resetting the datum in the field but several people got quite frustrated when they thought they had set the datum to NAD27 and it reverted to WGS84. I did not see anyone throw their gadget on the ground and stomp on it, but there were a few blue words. Fortunately, we had more than one GPS per group and so could stop and work out such discrepancies.

The other lesson was that GPS “sees” and lays out routes as the crow flies; those who lack wings may find it more expedient to look at map and terrain to see that the long way round is the easier. Those of us who chose to go up and over got the exercise and the view. Since groups were deliberately taking the targets in different orders in order to depend on their GPS units rather than following the heels of those going before, it was interesting to observe who felt competitive, who was influenced by where they saw another group examining the ground, etc. It seems safe to say that we all had an enjoyable and educational experience, and that some made strong resolves to practice individually with that wonderful frustrating piece of technology.

Members and guests participating included: Lori Thompson, Kim Thompson, Shauna Parrish, Andrew Parrish, David Oren, Ann Moser, William Miller, Owen Miller, Mike Mancuso, Tom Kearney, Linda Kearney, Kim Juda, Charlotte Gunn and of course instructor David Gomez.

HOLIDAY GIFT-WRAPPING AT CABELA'S

This is our third year of wrapping holiday gifts at Cabela's from Black Friday through Christmas Eve, and it is our second-biggest fundraiser of the year. We started producing the handmade bows in October and are currently sending volunteers in for shifts every day from noon until closing... and starting even earlier on Saturday and Sunday. It probably is true that people are spending less on Christmas shopping this year, and they may well feel less able to be generous when dropping donations in our box, but we are still happy to provide the service both to Cabela's (who might otherwise have to consider paying staff to wrap purchases) and to those customers—not only the males—who tell us they are delighted to find our service: “Wrap it up so my [husband/child/girlfriend] won't know what it is” or “I don't care what paper you use nor how it looks—just so I don't have to wrap it.”

We thank the friendly staff at Cabela's for making this project possible. We also thank Rick Thompson for making the arrangements from our end and for buying the supplies, Jimmie Yorgensen for scheduling our workers, and all the members and friends who have contributed their time and talents during this busy season.

IT WAS ANOTHER GREAT PARTY – DECEMBER 6, 2008 --CHARLOTTE GUNN

Bill and Marty Lindenau are great hosts and we thank them for opening their beautifully decorated home to a bunch of SAR people. We also thank Linda and Tom Kearney for volunteering again to handle the physical setup. As usual, there was more food than we could eat—though some of us made a valiant effort—lots of talk and laughter, fun awards for those moments that individuals would rather forget but everyone else enjoys hearing about, and the serious awards. These latter included rockers for the eleven members who have completed their probationary year; Rescue Specialist rockers for Owen Miller and Josh Nichols; recognition of those who have been members for 5 (Tom Kearney, Karen Limani, Ron Moomey, Phil O'Bryan, Phil Sander), 10 (Jerry Newland, Tom Wheless), 30 (Bob Meredith) and 35 (Charlotte Gunn, George Gunn) years, plus individual awards for those listed below, who have provided outstanding service to IMSARU during 2008:

Everett Wood and Rose Wood again worked the Corn Booth day shifts on all the weekdays, as well as helping with preparations for our gift-wrapping project (Rose is our artistic director for the handmade bows) and Everett participated in multiple missions.

Jimmie Yorgensen was actively involved on multiple missions, volunteered for summer lawn care at the Compound, and took on the burden of scheduling our Christmas giftwrap project as well as working multiple shifts there.

Phil O'Bryan spends lots of hours keeping our finances in order, and is especially appreciated for providing financial status updates regularly and explaining them in terms laypeople can understand.

John Ferguson has taken on the maintenance of our website and Internet communications; in his spare time he has also been a frequent and valuable assistant for K9 training sessions.

Tom Kearney is known as the “perennial volunteer,” not only keeping the vehicles running during his term as Logistics Director but also very active in safety education and PR events, K9 training, and the majority of missions.

Josh Nichols was recognized for his involvement in safety education and for valuable work on multiple missions, as well as for passing all his tests for Rescue Specialist.

Rick Thompson has been heavily involved in organizing PR events and our current gift-wrapping project, and is spearheading the formation of our new mountain bike team.

Rod Knopp continues to anchor us with his skills, experience and wisdom as in-town coordinator throughout many long nights and early mornings; in his spare time, he manages to keep track of unit radios and reprogram them to meet changing needs.

Bob Meredith is still the one who keeps the technical team progressing, keeps an eye on the MRA standards by which we must recertify no later than 2010, sets up quality training and climbing excursions and shares high-level skills in both physical and technical areas.

Owen Miller is very involved with technical skills, has passed all his tests for Rescue Specialist, and has taken on the task of getting our entire Training Manual updated.

Chris Harry, since moving back to Boise, has spent untold hours working on our vehicles and other equipment, and has added the project of cleaning up areas and getting rid of clutter.

Danny Cone not only does major repairs on our vehicles for cost of parts only, he also manages to get amazing donations (boxes for giftwrapping, aircraft radios plus mikes and antennas, work on our HVAC, to mention only a few.) In addition, Danny has a gift for showing up at missions with just exactly the vehicle needed.

Dan Scovel is instrumental in maintaining and improving our tracking team, does safety education for many different groups, is active in PR, and provides valuable leadership on missions (including search management).

Kris Scovel is also instrumental in maintaining and improving the tracking team, works on PR (especially liaison with law enforcement agencies), and shows up regularly to work on missions.

George Gunn continues to support the K9 and tracking teams (both programs he introduced to IMSARU), to provide management skills on missions, and to work with other agencies. In his spare time this year, he has done major work toward making the “old meeting room” usable for mission control, helping with the HVAC work, working on the command post trailer and updating radios.

Charlotte Gunn has been active as a K9 handler and tracker on multiple missions, and works in the background to edit and produce the newsletter, assist in handling finances, write thank-you notes, order Corn Booth supplies, remind people to plan ahead...and she bakes chocolate goodies.

Jerry Newland has given us another year as President, keeping us running in a businesslike manner, dealing behind the scenes with tensions and disagreements, working on the command post trailer, working on ICS management software, and serving multiple functions on multiple missions.

Amanda and Jimmy get practice re-packing the shelter at this year's Basecamp Training.

Photo by G. Gunn



From the Christmas Party:

Last December, Carl had to borrow Josh's knife to cut wet clothing off a hypothermic and uncooperative subject stranded in the snow. The Christmas elves gave Carl his own glittering knife for any such occasions in the future.

—Photo by D. Cone