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Founding Member: Mountain Rescue Association

Rescue

Web Edition



IDAHO MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT, INC. Boise, Idaho

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GROUP HIKE IN THE HILLS – MAY 7, 2018 --ALISA RETTSCHLAG

It was a big weekend for “Jane,” graduating from BSU and being one of the honored speakers for the commencement ceremony. Father, sisters, aunts and uncles came from Michigan, Minnesota and Tennessee to witness this impressive young woman take her next step in life.

Jane wanted to show her family the beautiful, fun places around Boise. What better activity than to go hiking up at Bogus Basin? With 80 degrees in Boise, it should be fine up on the mountain, right? She could wow her guests with great views of the city and impress them with the lovely terrain so close by!

Jane and seven relatives started hiking Around-The-Mountain Trail from the upper lodge in early afternoon, all in shorts, t-shirts and tennis shoes...not a jacket among them. They did have a few snack bars and a few water bottles. It started out fun, jovial, an adventure! Then they hit snow patches on the trail, at first only here and there... then snow covered whole slopes. The group lost the trail and started to traverse across the snow fields. They post-holed, sometimes falling up to their waists in four feet of snow. The aunts in their late 60's had the hardest time slogging through, and eventually just couldn't move farther. The group huddled near a big pine tree while Jane hiked up to an area where she found cell service and called 911 for help.

IMSARU got the callout at around 7 p.m., just as I was returning to the Compound from a separate mission in Elko, Nevada. I saw Rod, our in-town coordinator, pull up to the Compound just as I was leaving for home, never thinking he might be arriving to send out a mission call.

I got home, restocked my food bag, filled my water container, made some coffee, and threw my backpack into Gregg's (my husband's) truck. We decided to go direct, since we live near Bogus Basin Road. On the way, Rod

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assigned Gregg as the Operations Leader and gave coordinates of the group's location, stating that they "are VERY COLD and too tired to walk." We met Jim and Darryl at the upper lodge, as they had also gone direct. Gregg loaded Jim, Daryl and me with some of his extra clothes, an extra stove, extra food and water, and sent the three of us in as a hasty team.

The coordinates showed that the group were just above Shaffer Butte Road and about 300 feet below the Lodge Trail; we decided that it would be easier to go down to them than to climb through the snow up to them, so started walking on the Lodge Trail/road with Darryl blowing his whistle intermittently...and encountered snow almost immediately. As we went around a corner turning more to the west, Darryl blew his whistle again and we heard yells from below us. We continued on the road, stopping to pinpoint their location before descending almost directly down. It had taken us almost exactly one hour to reach the subjects.

Three of the people were sitting on a log, with the rest standing around them for cover on the southeast side of the pine tree. Darryl, Jim and I immediately started to distribute clothing and shelter (a sleeping bag, two tarps, and two bivvy bags), and to assess the subjects' condition. All were able to walk, but one of the aunts showed signs of hypothermia, shivering uncontrollably. We put her in a wool shirt and down jacket, then into the sleeping bag, and wrapped her in one of the bivvys. We also handed out all of our bags of food and extra water, which the subjects took gladly and voraciously. Darryl heated water and distributed warm Gatorade to all while Jim chatted with them about home towns, the graduation, Boise, the mountains. His EFA skills calmed them and allowed them to relax a little.

Reporting our location and assessment of the situation, we were told that two other teams were on their way and base was working on an evacuation plan. Night fell quickly. The next team arrived under headlamp at around 10 p.m. We gave their extra clothing and water to the subjects. Then Ron and his team arrived. He and I determined that the safest way to hike the subjects out was to get on the Shaffer Butte Road just below our current location, and up the road to the Shaffer Butte picnic area where vehicles would be waiting to pick us up. This plan meant post-holing about 40 feet through the breakable snow, straight down to the road base, and then walking the snow-covered road for a little over a mile. Ready to be done with this ordeal, the subjects enthusiastically agreed to try it.

Ron explained the plan to everyone; we paired each of the eight subjects with an IMSARU volunteer, and started making our way north toward the Shaffer Butte picnic area. The walking lifted the spirits of the subjects. As we walked, we talked about their fears of not being rescued and their worries about the cold night. Then, fears allayed, we talked about food and home life, and joked about Jane's graduation and how it ended in them all walking out of the Idaho wilderness in the snow in the middle of the night. We even got to a point of stopping to admire the beautiful stars in the sky!

Just as promised, vehicles met us at the picnic area and took subjects and searchers back to the upper lodge, where the subjects returned borrowed clothing, thanked us for the rescue, exchanged information, and then parted ways. What a great group of folks! I wish them the best for the future!

Responding IMSARU members were Darryl Beemer, Aaron Burdin, Francisco Castellon, Ron Christensen, Nick Dawson, Jim Findley, Curtis Frasier, Jake Gillis, Lindsay Glick, Christi Kelley, Dave Kelley, Alisa Rettschlag, Gregg Rettschlag (OL), Eddie-Dean Thomas and Christopher Weltner. In-town coordinators were Rod Knopp and Charlotte Gunn.

41st RACE TO ROBIE CREEK – APRIL 21, 2018 **--CHARLOTTE GUNN**

The spring temperature rose quickly before the race, adding to our concerns as first aid providers, since comfortable temperature for spectators usually brings heat injuries for racers. Our aid stations along the racecourse were prepared to deal with heat exhaustion and cramps, and the medical tent at the finish had cots with fresh linens and medical personnel awaiting. Yes, there were some of the usual problems treated with moleskin, Vaseline and potable liquids, a few participants turned back, and a few needed IV hydration at the finish. However, it was one of the least-stressful races for IMSARU workers since I started helping in 1992.

The race has for years been one of our favorite events, and we are impressed by the organization that keeps it running smoothly...with many improvements over the years. I had not realized, until I talked with one of the successful runners, that the finish-line technology allows each individual to have a record of total time, placement among the 2,000+ runners, and placement within runners of the same sex and various age groups.

As always, the “extras” that are part of the race—music, free food, a massage booth, dozens of Porta-Potties, bus transportation from the finish area (where only official vehicles have parking permits) back to parking lots at Spring Shores and in Boise—were taken for granted by many but represented months of preparation.

IMSARU members set up the communications trailer and finish-line medical tent on Friday afternoon; Gregg and Eddie-Dean then slept in the tent overnight. Our radio repeater above the summit of the racecourse functioned beautifully for communicating over the entire area. And anyone who has ever had to maneuver a trailer in close quarters should watch how easy it looks when Jimmie is the truck driver!

Kris Scovel supplied a few statistics from our aid stations, on what felt like the least-challenging race from that perspective in many years: Approximately 142 runners stopped at the aid stations. At mile 3 and mile 5, the most requested item was sunscreen; after the summit, the most requested was Vaseline. Only 28 runners visited the medical tent at the finish line, and only 196 radio transmissions during the race...with the “best” transmission being Everett’s request for a pressure hose to clean out a port-a-potty. Official aid groups included Ada County Paramedics, East Boise County Ambulance District, Boise County Sheriff’s Office, Army Corps of Engineers, plus IMSARU.

Dan and Kris Scovel were again the super-organizers for IMSARU participation, with Dan running his sticky-note system for keeping track of who was where at any particular time and Kris communicating with the race organizers and supervising those working in the finish area. Other IMSARU members participating included Justin Ahlin (ATV), Kevin Averill, Darryl Beemer, Aaron Burdin, Ron Christensen, Chase Christopher, John Ferguson, Kristin Freeman, Alex Graves, Taylor Grisham, Charlotte Gunn, Sachin Joshi, Christi Kelley, David Kelley, Robert Lockhart, Brian Martinelli, Ted Marx (ATV), Dell McNees (ATV), Jeff Munn, Dodi Newbill, Alisa Rettschlag, Gregg Rettschlag, Daniel Roberts, Mike Rowe (ATV), Delinda Shubin, Attila Sipiczki, Sam Stone, Eddie-Dean Thomas (ATV), Scott Walls, Greg Weber, Christopher Weltner, Tom Wheless, Everett Wood, Rose Wood and Jimmie Yorgensen

RESCUE IN THE STACK ROCK AREA --CHRIS BROOKMAN

On Monday April 24th we were paged out at 3:50pm for a rescue in the Stack Rock area. The initial information was that a female hiker had become lost between Stack Rock and Bogus Basin Rd and was going to stay put until help arrived. According to the callout information she was uninjured and dispatch was able to provide coordinates from a cell phone ping.

15 members responded, leaving the compound at 5:00pm with Ron assigned as the OL. The team met up with Boise County Deputy Dave Anthony approximately 13 miles up Bogus Basin Rd. The deputy was staged at the entrance to a radio tower service road that was located just below the "Entrance Exam" trailhead, which is the main access trail to Stack Rock.

The deputy had made access through the locked gate and driven partway down the access road before returning to meet us. Just as we arrived, Boise County dispatch radioed to say the subject had called in and reported that she had been able to see his vehicle.

A logging road was identified near the subject's location, and the best access point appeared to be a turnoff about 1.5 miles up Bogus Basin Rd from base. A two-person bike team was deployed as team 1 and assigned to access that road and attempt to reach the subject. A four-person ground team was established as team 2 and sent on the Entrance Exam Trail to provide containment. About 20 minutes after entering the field team 2 made visual contact with the subject, who was located across a drainage about a half mile north of their location. The subject was able to use the scree on her cell phone as a signal mirror. Team 2 remained at that location and assisted in guiding team 1 to the subject's location.

Team 1 made contact with the subject shortly after she was located by team 2. The female hiker was uninjured and in good spirits, and teams 1 and 2 met up on the logging road and assisted the subject in hiking back to the road and returned her to her vehicle. At 1929 all members were back in base before dark and the mission was debriefed before we returned to the compound.

One special note from this mission- this was the bike team's first rescue since the team was formed.

Members responding were: Darryl Beemer, Chris Brookman, Aaron Burdin, Juan Burzaco, Ron Christensen (OL), Eddie Dean-Thomas, Alex Graves, Dave Kelley, Christi Kelley, Scotty Perkins, Daniel Roberts, Attila Sipiczki, Christopher Weltner, and Jimmie Yorgensen. Rod Knopp and Charlotte Gunn were in-town coordinators.

Mock Mission– May Training --Darryl Beemer

Each year, the unit does a mock training mission to hone our skills and practice situations we might face. This is a chance to get members into new roles and try out some different tactics. This year, Chris Brookman and his team of henchman put together a mock plane-crash scenario by the high bridge at Lucky Peak. Books and subjects were strewn about the area and Chris even built an impressive fake aircraft. Great fun and work was had over the day, and everyone was well challenged. Thank you to all who helped make this training happen, especially the non-unit volunteers.



Jim Findley was OL for the mock mission. Brandon Mart flying the UAS. The UAS was used to find subjects then guide a ground team to the subjects' location for retrieval. Lower Right: The Tech Team after raising the final subject, as photographed by the UAS.

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Crossing the Bogus snowfields on the May 2nd mission.



Christi Kelley teaching at SheJumps.
Photo: Stacey Hopstad, She Jumps



Christopher Weltner and Juan Burzano during the mock mission.
Below: the view of the fake airplane from the UAS team's footage. The UAS found half of the 8 subjects during the mock mission and was incredibly useful. Also seen is the cliff that a "subject" mannequin was placed at the bottom of for technical rescue.



HIKER RESCUE IN BOGUS BASIN AREA – MAY 2, 2018 **--JIM FINDLEY**

At 16:15 hours on May 2, IMSARU received our second callout in nine days for a lost hiker in the Bogus Basin area. The subject, visiting from out-of-state, had left Pioneer Lodge around mid-morning and was hiking alone. She worked her way around to the backside of the mountain, but on her return was confronted with snow-covered slopes and trails, as well as confusing snow-cat tracks. The area was not yet set up for summer activities, so trail signs that would normally be in place for hikers were not there. Unable to determine the correct way back to the lodge, she used her cell phone to call for help. Based on her description of her surroundings and a cell phone ping, we had a good idea of her locations.

Gregg, IMSARU's O.L., went directly to the Pioneer Lodge where he met with the I.C., Sargent Dave Anthony of the Boise County Sheriff's Department. Twelve other IMSARU members and one K9 also responded. A few went directly to the lodge, but most left the Compound shortly after 1700 hours, with POVs following truck 901. Since the subject's location was known with a fairly high degree of certainty, Gregg dispatched a hasty team of Chris (Team Lead), Jim, Christy and K9 Hank soon after 901 arrived at the lodge. The team headed up a snow-cat track (NF 374) toward the subject's coordinates near Shafer Butte.

Just above the lodge, mud gave way to snow and it eventually became necessary to kick steps crossing the Triumph and Nighthawk ski runs. About a mile from the lodge and less than a quarter mile from Shafer Butte (at around 7,200' elevation), the team made voice contact with the subject, then met her coming down the track. She had food and water and was, for the most part, adequately dressed for the conditions. The exception was her wet running shoes, so the team provided her with a pair of dry socks. Chris did a quick medical assessment and, although the wind direction didn't favor Hank for searching, he did an excellent job of greeting the subject.

Once the assessment was complete, the team and subject headed back toward base. Just before arriving back at the lodge, we met Ron and the subject's husband coming up the track. After the reunion and some photos, all arrived back at the lodge at 19:25 hours.

IMSARU members participating were Darryl Beemer, Chris Brookman, Aaron Burdin, Christopher Chase, Ron Christensen, Jim Findley, Alex Graves, Christi Kelley with K9 Hank, Brian Marinelli, Gregg Rettschlag, Eddie-Dean Thomas, Christopher Weltner and Rod Knopp (in-town Coordinator).

WILDERNESS SAFETY EDUCATION PRESENTATION TO **ST. ALPHONSUS STAFF – JUNE 6, 2018** **--JIMMIE YORGENSEN**

At the request of St. Alphonsus Hospital's personnel, IMSARU members presented a Wilderness Safety Education program to personnel of both the Nampa and the Boise locations. The hour-long program shared information about wilderness preparedness as well as things to consider and think about if one should find oneself lost in the back-country. Becky Luber took the lead for the Boise folks and Jimmie Yorgensen was responsible for the Nampa group. (The latter group had 24 participants on Wednesday, June 6.) They were a great group with lots of interest and questions. It is always fun and worthwhile to share our knowledge, experiences and stories with such appreciative groups.

RUNNER INJURED IN FOOTHILLS – MAY 10, 2018 **--AARON BURDIN**

It's not often that we have three missions within less than ten days, but this was the third and all were successful. IMSARU was notified that a trail runner had fallen on the Sweet Connie Trail in the Boise foothills and suffered a severe ankle injury; he was still able to walk and was slowly heading back to his vehicle. He called a friend in town, who asked IMSARU to respond. Since we had more information than usual about the injury and location, six members responded as a hasty team.

Two members were sent down the trail to determine the condition of the subject and evaluate the best course of action. The subject expressed a wish to not be put into a litter, preferring to have his foot wrapped and believing that with additional support he could finish walking to his vehicle. We taped the ankle and gave him trekking poles to assist in walking. Meanwhile, three more members of the rescue team arrived to assist. The subject was able to walk back to his vehicle under his own power, and was able to drive himself to the hospital. He later informed IMSARU that he had suffered a fracture of the fibula.

IMSARU members responding were Aaron Burdin, Samuel Graves, Christine Kelley, Gregg Rettschlag (O.L.), Daniel Roberts and Christopher Weltner.

SHE JUMPS WILD SKILLS SAFETY – JUNE 2, 2018 **--BECKY LOUBER**

For the third year in a row, IMSARU helped teach a station at the She Jumps Wild Skills event, described as "Wild Skills youth events teach young girls the survival and technical skills they need for outdoor adventuring" at the Foothills Learning Center in Boise. Twenty-nine girls attended the event, open to Boise girls ages 6-12.

IMSARU taught the Navigation station to the girls in two sessions, one with the younger and one with the older girls. Teaching energetic youth how to use a compass, some for the first time, presents a fun challenge in that you only have their attention on one topic for maybe ten minutes. This opens the door for lots of different activities, including identifying features on a map, understanding topographic maps, learning the cardinal directions with a parachute game, orienting to north and other bearings with a compass, and finally following a navigation course based on a bearing and number of steps to the next clue. The best part of working with the girls was seeing them grasp a new concept, such as following a bearing.

IMSARU presenters included Alex Graves, Sachin Joshi, Christi Kelley, Becky Louber and Brian Marinelli.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We greatly appreciate the financial support from the following:

Idaho Power Company (via Nick Dawson) as non-profit group award for public service.

Exchange Club of Caldwell, Inc., honoring IMSARU as Emergency Responder of the Year

United Way of Northern Utah REI, dated March 12 Idaho Capital City Kennel Club

Combined Federal Campaign of Greater SoCal

Ronald Christensen

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IMSARU ASSISTS BOY SCOUTS WITH SAR MERIT BADGE --JIMMIE YORGENSEN

On Saturday, June 2, members of Idaho Mountain Search And Rescue Unit's Mantracking Team met 85 Boy Scouts and their leaders at the Pinetop LDS Church Camp, where the group was working toward their highly-valued SAR badge. We shared information about IMSARU, who we are, what we do and how we fit into search and rescue activities. We also demonstrated tools used for tracking and how a tracking team functions, and gave an opportunity to choose and draw tracks as we would do during a real mission. The IMSARU trackers then spent the rest of the day training at the Pinetop location. Participants were Alisa Rettschlag, Scott Walls and Jimmie Yorgensen.

KEGS 4 KAUSE AT PAYETTE BREWING --KEN SWICKARD

Payette Brewing in Boise chooses a local non-profit organization to share the proceeds from their Beer Bar on Monday Night Kegs 4 Kause, and May 28 was our date.

This establishment is a brewery with a kids-and-dogs environment. We set up two tables at the main entrance with brochures and handouts for those wishing more information about IMSARU. As usual, most of those visiting our tables were of the belief that IMSARU is part of the Sheriff's Office. We had visitors, aged 3 to 80, wanting information; a lot of questions were asked and answered.

Besides myself, Liz Swan helped at the tables for a couple of hours. At least four other IMSARU members and their families came by Payette Brewing for some adult beverages and to socialize, and stopped to say hello. It was a great evening and we really enjoyed the five hours that Payette Brewing provided for us to earn a much-appreciated donation.

Our gratitude goes out to the fine folks at Payette Brewing for including us in their program to benefit non-profits in the Boise area.

ADDITIONAL K-9 CERTIFICATIONS

During the Memorial Day weekend, Dave and Christi Kelley traveled to West Yellowstone, where their dogs, Hank and Brewster, were certified in Cadaver 1. Congratulations to both dogs and handlers!



Hank and Brewster looking like they are dropping the hottest album of the summer. Photo Credit: Christi Kelley

CALENDAR

NOTE THAT THE SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE, ESPECIALLY AS WE GET INVOLVED IN OUR CORN BOOTH AT THE WESTERN IDAHO FAIR, WHICH SUPPLIES ABOUT 40% OF OUR ANNUAL FUNDS.

July 3	General Meeting	7:00 p.m.
July 8	K-9 Training	Time & Place TBA
July 10	Classroom Training: Landing Zone Officer	7:00 p.m.
July 14	Training: Aircraft Operations at Garden Valley Airport	
July 17	Medical Training	7:00 p.m.
July 22	K-9 Training	Time & place TBA
July 24	Business Meeting	7:00 p.m.
July 31	Inventory Corn Booth equipment & supplies; clean and repair as needed.	7:00 p.m.
Aug. 4	Base Camp with 901	Time & Place TBA
Aug. 5	K-9 Training	Time & Place TBA
Aug. 7	Load equipment & supplies for Corn Booth	7:00 p.m.
Aug. 11	Assemble Corn Booth at Fairgrounds	9:00 a.m.
Aug. 12	Complete Corn Booth assembly & preparations	9:00 a.m.
Aug. 14	Walk-through & pick up tickets at Corn Booth	7:00 p.m.
Aug. 17-26	Corn Booth every day: Morning shift 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Evening shift 5:00 p.m.-midnight, except early close Aug. 26	
Aug. 26	K-9 Training	Time & Place TBA
Aug. 27	Disassemble booth, load all and return it to Compound---	3:00 p.m.
Aug. 28	Clean and put away Corn Booth equipment & supplies	

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