

Founding Member: Mountain Rescue Association

Rescue

Web Edition



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EXTRICATION AT ALDAPE SUMMIT – FEBRUARY 3, 2019 COMBINED REPORTS BY CHRIS BROOKMAN, RON CHRISTENSEN, ROD KNOPP

At 7:27 p.m., Boise County Dispatch requested IMSARU to be on standby to help a stranded motorist at Clear Creek Summit or Aldape Summit; 12 minutes later came the call that it was Aldape Summit and that Robie Creek Fire Department personnel had checked the east side of the summit but could not make it all the way to the top. The driver of the vehicle stuck in snow was a male, age 70-plus, reported by ATV riders to be about 100 yards east of Aldape Summit (on the route for the Race to Robie Creek). Note: Not everyone realizes how much difference in snow cover there can be between the east and west sides of the summit.

Coordinator Rod Knopp sent out the call to IMSARU members at 1957 hours, requesting them to meet at the Compound by 2045, and 15 members responded (in addition to the in-town coordinators.) All vehicles and personnel left the Compound by 2049 hours, with Ron Christensen as IMSARU commander under Boise County Sheriff Kaczmarek, who had come up from the east side via ATV. The subject's vehicle had slid off the road and was stuck in a ditch, approximately 120-140 feet from the (east side of) the summit. The subject was adamant about not leaving his vehicle, even though it was very cold and he was an insulin-dependent diabetic...and was informed that an overnight stay in his vehicle could be fatal.

Our general policy is that we don't rescue vehicles; we rescue people. However, we were pretty sure the stranded subject would still be there the next day if there was no intervention, and were very concerned about what could happen in the meantime, so we consulted with the Sheriff and set about the task. Members removed snow from around the vehicle's wheels, set up truck 901's and Scotty's winches, and attached multiple tow straps; they also blocked 901's wheels and attached Perkins' POV with its winch behind 901 as additional anchor. [Continued on Page 2](#)

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The subject and his vehicle reached the summit at approximately 2240 hours. All vehicles turned around to travel back down the mountain, with the subject's vehicle sandwiched between IMSARU vehicles. The subject left our convoy when we reached the paved road, and IMSARU members returned to the Compound at 2350 hours.

IMSARU members responding included Brad Acker, Chris Brookman, Tricia Brookman, Aaron Burdin, Angela Christensen, Ron Christensen, Maya Davies, James Findley, Kristin Freeman, Taylor Grisham, Rory Olsen, Scotty Perkins, Eddie-Dean Thomas, Monica Vermillion and Christopher Weltner. Rod Knopp was in-town coordinator with help from Charlotte Gunn.

MISSING GEOLOGIST - DECEMBER 7, 2018 --DANIEL ROBERTS

On the afternoon of December 7, we were called to respond to the report of a stranded person in the Boise National Forest near the Edna Creek Road. The subject had arranged to meet a taxi that would take her back to Boise, but the taxi became stuck in snow close to the intersection of Highway 20 and the Edna Creek Road, so the Boise County Sheriff requested IMSARU to extract her from the area. She was later described as a person who had a mining claim and was supposed to be searching for semi-precious stones.

Boise County Sheriff Kaczmarek was already on scene with a Sargeant and they had been checking nearby empty structures via ATVs. When IMSARU members arrived. O.L. Gregg tasked Team 1, (Ron and Chris) to perform a hasty search in the immediate vicinity of the subject's last-known camp. Team 1 was transported to their search area, 6.3 miles from the search base, via two ATVs through 4-12 inches of snow. We then fitted chains to all four tires of my truck and loaded another team's equipment on it to transport Team 2. Team 3 was assigned to start at some footprints that Team 1 had located near the edge of the road, and track them back to their source. We then drove back to the Willow Creek Campground with Eddie-Dean (Team 4 on an ATV) to act as radio relay with Search Base.

Team 3 located footprints in the snow and, after quickly documenting them on a footprint card, followed them uphill along a shallow ravine. About 150 vertical feet above the road, the footprints made a large looping pattern out to a patch of bare ground that overlooked the road and Willow Creek Campground, back along the hillside, and to a small camp and mining claim. Chris and Evan called the subject's name and she emerged from a short adit (horizontal mine tunnel) in the hillside and identified herself. She accompanied us back to Search Base and, after a brief interview with the BCSO, IMSARU transported the subject to a hotel in Boise where she had a reservation.

IMSARU personnel responding included Chris Brookman, Tricia Brookman, Angie Christensen, Ron Christensen, Evan Mitchell, Rory Olsen, Gregg Rettschlag, Daniel Roberts, Eddie-Dean Thomas and Christopher Weltner. In-town coordinator was Rod Knopp.



Extricating the stuck vehicle and subject from the snow-bank on Aldape Summit.

CONGRATULATIONS NEWLY WINTER-CERTIFIED MEMBERS

Tricia Brookman, Angie Christensen, Curtis Frasier, Kristin Freeman, Brian Marinelli, Scotty Perkins, Dan Roberts, Mike Rock, and Sam Stone.

Winter certifications require an overnight winter bivy (left below) and an avalanche rescue training (right below) and allow the member to respond in all four seasons.



ULLR FESTIVAL AT BOGUS BASIN, FEBRUARY 2, 2019
--MIKE ROWE

So what is an ULLR festival? ULLR is a Norse traditional god associated with archery, skiing and snow. Well, this year there was snow on the ground and ski slopes but what fell from the sky on this day (and pretty much all day), was rain. That didn't stop the skiers from coming to the resort and participating in the festival. There were many people dressed in Norse or "Viking" type clothing and headwear. Our booth was one of 14 vendors, games and associations that were represented just outside of the main lodge.

We probably had 125-150 contacts at our booth between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. IMSARU members had numerous opportunities to answer questions about our organization and educate the public on what we do. The K9 members, of course, were a huge attraction to both children and adults. We received some donations and also recruited a few potential members who seemed interested in attending our next orientation. Members who participated were Lisa Bahr and K9 Schatzi, Curtis Fraser, Tom Kearney and K9 Terabyte, Rory Olsen, Scott Perkins and Mike Rowe.

NOTES FROM BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 29, 2019
--CONDENSED FROM RECORD OF SECRETARY, ALISA RETTSCHLAG

These are some of the action items agreed upon during the meeting (in order of discussion).

--Newly-elected Treasurer Jim Findley will talk to bank official about names for signatures, for Savings and CDs. Only the Treasurer can write checks; a few specific members can add the second signature.

--Facilities Director Christopher Weltner will repair the garage door.

--All officers will write up a job description of duties to hand off to their successor.

--Secretary Alisa Rettschlag will locate the guidelines for all specialty teams and put them in one place when files are moved to IMSARU.org.

--Logistics Director Eddie-Dean Thomas will look into getting a Logistics and/or Treasurer email into the IMSARU's on-line account. President Gregg Rettschlag will forward email from Jimmie Yorgensen.

--Gregg, with Amanda's help, will write changes into policy for new members.

--Gregg will discuss with Amanda the different types of background checks and which one(s) will be appropriate for our unit.

--Gregg is to acquire a locking filing cabinet.

--Gregg will lead a members' vote on these proposals at the next business meeting.

Editor's Note: These Board decisions were approved by the membership at the February meeting.



Left: K9 Shatzi embracing her inner Norse goddess. Courtesy of Lisa Bahr

Right: IMSARU's tent next to the other vendors and organizations at Ullr Fest.

K-9 SNOW TRAINING, JANUARY 20 & 23, 2018 --CHRISTI KELLEY

The K-9 team looks to double its numbers this year with handlers and puppies in training. And this is the best time of year for our dogs and handlers to get “snow conditions” training. On Sunday, January 20, the K-9 team went up to Idaho City and trained in the snow. We constructed three snow shelters in which to hide subjects. In addition, we set out cadaver material for the cadaver dogs’ training. Newer K-9 members performed runaways for the dogs to get them fired up for “Go Find!” Although it was a bit cold with slick ice spots, everyone survived unscathed and no worse for wear.

In addition, a few K-9 team members trained with Valley County SAR K-9 team in McCall on January 23... much deeper snow conditions, requiring the use of snowshoes to avoid sinking down three to four feet! As an added bonus, the K-9 team got to rescue a few young men stuck in the snow! A special shout-out goes to Gravity Sports in McCall for donating the use of snowshoes for our training.

EMOTIONAL FIRST AID TRAINING – DECEMBER 15, 2018 --EMMA WALKER & JIM FINDLEY

IMSARU members train for all manner of scenarios: A SAR volunteer might need to build a snow shelter, perform CPR, navigate rough terrain, or use any number of wilderness or medical skills. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, subjects don’t always make it out of the field alive...and any IMSARU member could be faced with the difficult task of communicating with a subject’s family in those circumstances, which led to this important training.

On Saturday, December 15, 24 IMSARU members gathered at our Compound to learn the basics of the Family Liaison role, the principles of Emotional First Aid, techniques for interviewing family members, and, when necessary, how to de-escalate tense situations.

Alisa Rettschlag kicked off the morning with an informative presentation, reminding us that any IMSARU member might be appointed as the Family Liaison. Her brother was a good sport, acting as a guinea pig for us to practice interviewing techniques. We also had a great discussion about the differences between sympathy and empathy, and went through the steps of Emotional First Aid.

The whole crew then headed out to the garage, where Tom Wheless showed us where to find useful items in our vehicle 901, to help make family members comfortable and feel cared-for...a key part of the Family Liaison duties. After a tour of the liaison-related parts of vehicle 901, we split into groups for practice, rotating through three stations: We practiced interviewing family members, discussed important questions to ask and details to look out for, and ran through a scenario in which a fellow IMSARU member was struggling with the aftermath of a difficult mission.

Each group could probably have kept running through scenarios all afternoon, but eventually we retired to the meeting room for pizza and debrief. Several attendees mentioned that stopping for lunch with their fellow IMSARU members after a recent difficult mission had been cathartic for them, practicing EFA on each other as well as on the family members we encounter on missions. I can’t speak for everyone, but I certainly left the training feeling not only more prepared to act as Family Liaison (at least, as much as one can ever be prepared to take on that role), but also glad to be part of a unit whose members are so supportive of one another.

2019 MRA WINTER BUSINESS MEETING --CHRIS BROOKMAN

[Editor's Note] Chris Brookman and Aaron Burdin represented IMSARU at the MRA winter business meeting and brought back pages of info. This article has only enough space to mention a few of them. It was the first MRA business meeting for both of them and Chris described it as an IMSARU business meeting on steroids. There is space here for only a few of Chris's comments, but you can talk to either Chris or Aaron for more information.]

Each region is awarded scholarship money every year to help send a few members to the summer or winter conferences. For this year, each region will receive a base amount of \$1,000 plus an additional \$100 for each team in their region. The region's board decides how to award the money. Some regions require their teams to pay region dues; our Intermountain region does not.

This year's summer conference will be hosted by Portland Mountain Rescue in the neighborhood of Mount Hood. The early-bird price of \$250 is good only for the first 90 people to register, or until March first.

Future hosts are already designated for 2020 (Allegheny Mountain Rescue), 2021 (Larimer County SAR) and 2022 (Coconino County SAR).

New this year: Each region was also given some "discretionary funds" to spend, with the region entirely controlling how to spend it...but one main focus was to add incentives for evaluators involved in re-certification testing. This funding is \$1,000 per region and \$50 per team.

All teams are encouraged, but not required, to submit their mission response data to the MRA. About 50% of teams currently do so.

The Intermountain region has now expanded, with both Teton County Search and Rescue, and Grand Teton National Park moving from the Rocky Mountain Region into our region.

IMSARU's winter re-certification will be due in March of 2020. Shaun asked us to give him about a three-month notice when we are ready to schedule this.

There is interest within the Intermountain region to host the 2023 or 2024 summer conference. I did remind people that IMSARU just hosted a conference and is unlikely to be enthusiastic about another so soon, but suggested we could share some of our data and experience in hosting in 2017.

CALENDAR

Feb. 19 – 7:00 p.m.	Medical Training
Feb. 26 – 7:00 p.m.	Business Meeting
Feb. 28 – March 3	Sportsman Show at Fairgrounds Contact Aaron Burdin to help with our display.
March 5 - 7:00 p.m.	General Meeting
March 12 – 7:00 p.m.	Training (classroom)
March 16 and/or 17	Field Training Time & Place TBA
March 19 – 7:00 p.m.	Medical Training
March 26 – 7:00 p.m.	Business Meeting
April 2 – 7:00 p.m.	General Meeting
April 9 – 7:00 p.m.	Training (classroom)
April 13 and/or 14	Field Training Time & Place TBA
April 16 – 7:00 p.m.	Medical Training
April 23 – 7:00 p.m.	Business Meeting
April 30 – 7:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
May 7 – 7:00 p.m.	General Meeting
May 14 – 7:00 p.m.	Training (classroom)
May 21 – 7:00 p.m.	Medical Training
May 28 – 7:00 p.m.	Board Meeting

NOTE: All sessions and times are subject to change. Weekend training times vary; some are overnight. Specialty teams have additional schedules.

Fearless editor-in-chief of *RESCUE* is Charlotte Gunn. Don Fridrich provides the online version and mailing help. Darryl Beemer formats and prints with the generosity of HP Inc. Thanks to all who write articles and provide photos.

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