

# **By-laws**

## **Weber County Sheriff's Mountain Rescue Unit, Inc.**

**November 1994**

### **Article I**

#### **Name**

Section 1. The name of this organization, which is a Utah non-profit corporation, shall be the "Weber County Sheriff's Mountain Rescue Unit, Inc.", known throughout this document as the Team.

#### **Objectives**

Section 2. The objectives of the Team shall be:

- A. To serve the residents of Weber County, Utah.
- B. To provide the men and women constituting the membership with training in organized technical search and rescue techniques.
- C. To serve as a specialized resource for high angle mountain search and rescue requiring technical climbing expertise. The Team will function under the direct command of the Weber County Sheriff. Requests for the Team's assistance will be initiated and dispatched through the Weber County Sheriff's office in accordance with the current dispatch roster.

Section 3. The office and principle place of business shall be as the Sheriff and elected officers so designate.

### **Article II**

#### **Incident Action and Organization**

Section 1. All rescue activities involving the Team will be directed through the Commander or a designated representative.

- A. Individual Team members are not authorized to undertake official rescue operations on an individual basis unless specifically authorized by the Commander or representative.
- B. On-mountain leadership will be designated prior to base site departure and shall be known throughout this document as Non-Technical Team Leader or Technical Team Leader depending on the skill level of the Team member.
- C. Whenever possible, a field team shall consist of at least three individuals. Operations with less than three individuals are discouraged and will be used with caution and careful evaluation by the Commander or representative.
- D. A Team member may be designated (if numbers permit) to be present at base operation to coordinate communications and information necessary for the on-mountain team(s) and shall be known throughout this document as Incident Commander.

### **Article III**

#### **Membership**

Section 1. Membership of this organization shall be comprised of technical climbers. The members shall be men and women who are capable climbers physically willing and able to support the objectives of the Team. Members shall understand and use proper and safe climbing and rescue techniques in the high-risk environment of mountain rescue. The membership shall consist of Trainee, Support, Rescue, and Technical Team Leader.

Section 2. The membership shall be classified according to demonstrated knowledge and practice of various skill levels associated with mountain search and rescue

operations. Classification will be assigned to Team members in a timely manner upon completion, to the satisfaction of the Team officers, of said classification requirements and skill level.

A. **Trainee:** A new member with six months or less of active attendance with the Team. Prior to receiving a membership vote, the Trainee must complete to the satisfaction of the Team officers:

1. Once year or more of climbing experience.
2. Knowledge and practice of leading at least a class 5.4 natural climb and following at least a class 5.6 natural climb (as defined by the Yosemite Decimal System.)
3. Knowledge and practice of proper rope management and basic knots.
4. Knowledge and practice of basic belay and rappel systems.
5. 24-hour field capable (three season.)
6. Own and maintain or willing to acquire basic personal climbing equipment including:
  - a) climbing or rescue harness
  - b) UIAA approved helmet
  - c) Rappel/belay device
  - d) Leather gloves
  - e) Two ascending devices (mechanical or prussik type)
  - f) Three locking carabiners
  - g) Two 3-foot runners (one-inch tubular webbing)
  - h) The "ten essentials", including:
    - (1) headlamp
    - (2) extra clothing
    - (3) food and water
    - (4) waterproof matches
    - (5) candle
    - (6) pocket knife
    - (7) personal first-aid kit
    - (8) compass
    - (9) emergency shelter (e.g. space blanket or bivy bag)
    - (10) sunglasses

A. **Support:** A Team member that has met all the requirements and skills of a Trainee classification. Prior to receiving a Team vote, the Trainee must:

1. Complete and participate in at least six Team training sessions.
2. Maintain active member status (6-month minimum.)
3. 24-hour field capable (four season.)
4. Demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Team officers, knowledge and practice of the following skills:
  - a) safe climbing procedures
  - b) basic climbing skills
  - c) basic winter travel skills
  - d) basic first-aid and CPR certification
  - e) anchor systems (rock)
  - f) map and compass skills

A. **Rescue:** A Team member that has met all the requirements and skills of a Support classification. Prior to receiving a Team vote, the Support member must:

1. Complete and participate in at least 12 Team training sessions.
2. Maintain active member status (12-month minimum.)
3. Demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Team officers, knowledge and practice of the following skills:
  - a) search techniques
  - b) helicopter operations
  - c) patient packaging
  - d) anchor systems (snow)
  - e) winter/snow evacuations
  - f) lowering systems
  - g) radio communications

A Rescue member may be designated a Non-Technical Team Leader (for a given incident) by the Incident Commander.

A. **Technical Team Leader:** A Team member that has met all the requirements and skills of a Rescue classification. Prior to receiving a Team vote, the Rescue member must:

1. Complete and participate in all Team training sessions as described in Section 8.
2. Maintain active member status (18-month minimum.)
3. Demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Team officers, knowledge and practice of the following skills:
  - a) ability to lead search and rescue operations
  - b) avalanche conditions and rescue
  - c) technical rock evacuations (scree and high angle)
  - d) suspension systems
  - e) ability to lead at least a class 5.6 natural climb
  - f) hauling systems
  - g) advanced medical training (First Responder or equivalent)
1. Experience on at least three official search and rescue operations.
2. Actively pursuing the knowledge and practice of the following skills:
  - a) anchor systems (ice)
  - b) technical ice climbing
  - c) technical aid climbing
  - d) high altitude experience (i.e. greater than 12,000 feet above MSL)

Section 3. Voting on active membership shall be by two-thirds (2/3) of the active membership in attendance.

Section 4. Members and applicants for membership must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

Section 5. In the event of inactive membership or cessation of membership, interest of such member in and to the property and privileges of the organization shall cease and revert back to the organization.

Section 6. No member may exercise any of the duties of a Team member without direct or delegated orders of sanction from the Weber County Sheriff.

Section 7. A minimum of 50 percent annual total attendance at Team meetings and training sessions is required of each member to maintain active status. Those members not in compliance will be placed on the inactive roster. Members on the inactive roster

will not be called out to search and rescue incidents. The active/inactive roster will be updated every three (3) months.

Section 8. The Team as a unit shall train and maintain the skills necessary to be proficient in search and rescue techniques, including:

- A. Winter travel and evacuation
- B. Avalanche conditions and rescue
- C. Technical rock evacuations: scree and high angle
- D. Snow evacuations
- E. Anchor systems: snow, rock, ice
- F. Hauling systems
- G. Suspension systems
- H. Map and compass
- I. Medical—First responder
- J. Technical ice climbing
- K. Technical aid climbing
- L. Search techniques
- M. Helicopter operations

Section 9. Membership may be terminated by the Weber County Sheriff for any reason deemed sufficient and/or by vote of the active membership.

#### **Article IV**

##### **Membership Roster**

Section 1. The membership roster shall contain the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all Team members. It shall also note the member's classification.

Section 2. The roster shall be updated every three (3) months (January, April, July, and October) per attendance and training requirements.

Section 3. Inactive members will not be called to participate in actual rescues until they are again upgraded to active status.

#### **Article V**

##### **Fees, Dues, and Assessments**

Section 1. All Team members shall pay into the treasury of the Team dues, payable in January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. New members must pay, on a prorated schedule, within the first three months of being voted in as a trainee.

Section 2. Money in the treasury shall be expended for:

- A. Any purpose as approved by the membership.
- B. Any purpose as approved by the Commander. Said authorization shall not exceed the amount of fifty (50.00) dollars for any single disbursement considered by the Commander.

#### **Article VI**

##### **Meetings**

Section 1. The monthly meeting of the Team shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month of the calendar year.

Section 2. Practical training sessions will be scheduled for the first Saturday (following the monthly Team meeting) of each month of the calendar year as necessary.

#### **Article VII**

##### **Officers**

Section 1. The elected officers of the Team shall consist of a Commander, Vice-Commander, and Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2. Special duty officers may be appointed by the Commander as necessary (e.g. quartermaster, PR/PSAR, membership, medical coordinator, medical advisor, and fund raising.)

### **Article VIII**

#### **Elections**

Section 1. The Secretary shall cause notice of the Annual meeting and election of officers to be given to the membership by mail at least five (5) days prior to said meeting.

Section 2. All Team members who are personally present shall have only one (1) vote per person. Voting shall be written ballot only.

Section 3. Voting by absentee ballot is permitted if a Team member is unavailable with reasonable excuse. Absentee ballots must be sealed and given to the Secretary prior to the elections.

Section 4. The nomination for Team officers shall be accepted from any member present during the November monthly meeting only.

Nominations shall be for the following offices:

- A. Commander
- B. Vice-Commander
- C. Secretary/Treasurer

Section 6. Requirements for nominees, include:

- A. Active member status.
- B. A minimum skill classification of Support
- C. Seventy-five (75) percent attendance of Team meetings and training sessions.

Section 7. Elections of officers shall be held once a year at the regular December monthly Team meeting, herein known as the Annual meeting. Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.

Section 8. In the case of a vacancy in any office due to the death or lingering illness that would cause absence from performance of duty, the remaining officers shall have the power to appoint a successor to hold the office for the unexpired term.

Section 9. Conduct of the Election. The election shall be conducted by the Commander. There shall be two (2) tellers whose duty shall be to count all ballots and report the findings to the membership.

Section 10. The candidate receiving the majority of votes shall be declared elected to the office for which he/she was nominated.

### **Article IX**

#### **Duties of Officers**

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Commander to preside over all the Team meetings and to insure that all of the By-laws, rules, and regulations are enforced. The Commander shall also call meetings and have general supervision over the affairs of the Team. The Commander shall make a comprehensive report to the membership at the Annual meeting concerning the accounts and affairs of the Team during the previous year. The Commander shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2. The Vice-Commander shall assume the duties of the Commander in the event the Commander is absent.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the organization as well as conduct official correspondence and give all notices required by these By-laws to be given. The Treasurer shall collect all moneys and keep the books of accounting showing the financial condition of the Team, make deposits of said moneys, and execute receipts for such moneys that are paid to the Team.

Section 4. In case of disagreements on parliamentary procedures, Robert's Rules of Order will prevail.

#### **Article X**

##### **Amendment or Repeal**

Section 1. Amendment or repeal of these By-laws and the adoption of new laws may be accomplished by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the active membership, provided the Secretary gave sufficient notice of the meeting. Such notice shall set forth the purpose of the meeting and outline the proposed changes to be voted upon. Notice shall be given to each Team member by mail at least five (5) days prior to said meeting.

[Editor's Note: This version does not include three amendments:

1. Allowing Associate team members who have a particular skill of value to the unit such as medical skills. There was a cap of 25% of the membership may be "Associate" members.
2. Removing the dues requirement. It was felt that we expend enough money for time and gear that we didn't need dues on top of that.
3. Team meeting were moved from Wednesday's to Tuesdays.

JES, 3/19/01]