



Weber County Sheriff

Search and Rescue Training Newsletter



February 2003

TRAINING AND EVENTS CALENDAR 2003

FEBRUARY

- 04 Cold Weather Injuries (Hypothermia, Frostbite), Winter Patient Packaging & Transport
- 08 Practical: Out-of-area-fmlrzt & telemark clinic, Snowbasin 10 am–5 pm .. *John Sohl, Mike Jenkins*
- 10 Lead Climbing (Ben Lomond Climbing Center, **must preregister 737-7274**) *Wayne Aprill*
- 21–23 Winter Survival Seminar *Jeff Malan*

MARCH

- 04 Classroom: Ice Diving, Winter Mock Search overview *Art Pluim, Travis Baird*
- 08 Practical: Winter Mock Search, Monte Cristo, 9 am *Travis Baird, Richard Schroeder*
- 10 Natural Anchor Systems (Ben Lomond Climbing Cen., **must preregister 737-7274**) .. *Wayne Aprill*
- TBA Practical: Ice Dive *Art Pluim*

APRIL

- 01 Classroom: Tyrolean Traverse & V-rig Pick-off
- 05 Practical: Tyrolean Traverse
- 07 Natural Pro Lead Climbing (Ben Lomond Climbing Cen., **must pregrstr. 737-7274**) ... *Wayne Aprill*
- TBA EANx mixed gas dive training
- TBA Airboat & GSLP training *Jeff Malan, Jeff King*

MAY

- 06 Classroom: Advanced First Aid, Swiftwater
- 10 Practical: Swiftwater

JUNE

- 03 Classroom: Advanced First Aid, Raising/lowering Systems (3-season), Helicopter Ops
- 07 Practical: Raising/lowering Systems
- 06-08 MRA 45th Annual Conference, California (Dates may change.)
- 14 Familiarization Ride: OHV & Dirt Bike, Monte parking lot
- 14 Familiarization Ride: Airboat

JULY

- 04 Parades
- 08 Classroom: CPR, Underwater Search
- 12 Practical: Underwater Search
- 12 Practical: Scree Evacuation
- 24 Ogden Parade
- 25-27 Familiarization Climb (Tetons for a Weekend)

AUGUST

- 06–09 Climbing Wall, County Fair PSAR

SEPTEMBER

- 02 Classroom: Trauma/Bone Injuries, Underwater Recovery and Salvage
- 06 Practical: Underwater Recovery and Salvage
- 06 Practical: Rappelling and Ascending (People & K9), passing a knot, Aid Climbing
TBA OEC recerts and classes

OCTOBER

- 07, 11 Classroom and Practical: Incident Command System, Search (3-season)
- 18, 25 First Care course

NOVEMBER

- 04 Classroom: Logistics/support (Radio Protocol, Etc.), Map/Compass/GPS/Orienteering
- 08 Practical: Orienteering

DECEMBER

- 02, 06 Classroom and Practical: Avalanche I (Full course including beacons)

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WEBER COUNTY SHERIFF SEARCH AND RESCUE

**AIRBOAT RESCUE; BACKCOUNTRY SKIERS; EXTREME TEAM; K9 RESCUE;
MEDICAL; MOUNTAIN RESCUE; MOUNTED POSSE; OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES;
SEARCH; SWIFTWATER & UNDERWATER RECOVERY & RESCUE;
WINTER RESCUE**

PROPOSED TRAINING AND EVENTS CALENDAR 2004

JANUARY

- 06 Classroom: CPR, Winter Raising/lowering, Winter Survival (Snow Caves/Trench/Clothing/gear)
- 10 Practical: Raising/lowering, Snow Anchors, Winter Survival
- 10 Familiarization/Certification Ride: Snowcat, Snowmobile; Monte
- 10 Familiarization Hike: Snowshoes, Skis, Boards; Cuttler Ridge
- 17, 24 First Care Course

FEBRUARY

- 03 Cold Weather Injuries (Hypothermia, Frostbite), Winter Patient Packaging & Transport
- 07 Practical: Search (winter)
- 20-22 Winter Survival Seminar

Please visit the calendar on the WCSSAR web site planet.weber.edu/sar for updates.

DECEMBER/JANUARY CALLOUTS:

December 28, 2002, 9 pm—Four snowmobilers were lost at Powder Mountain. The patients were all from the condos at Powder Mountain. There were 45 to 50 MPH winds at the Hidden Lake Lodge where IC was set up. The winds were so strong that the teams unloaded down lower and rode up to IC. Two Winter Extreme Teams were sent out after 11:30 pm and the patients were found at 12:30 am. The patients stuck their snowmobiles in the deep snow and were traveling on foot doing lots of post holing. They were very happy to see us and at least one of the men was in tears. In order to keep from getting stuck our teams had to drive fairly hard, it seems that the patients found the ride out to be somewhat frightening, but were glad to be out. IC was closed and the mountain cleared by 1:30 am.

December 31, 2002—Two separated snowboarders on Ben Lomond Peak. They planed to spend the night and were well equipped. However, they got separated in the whiteout conditions. After attempting to find his partner, one of them called for help then sought shelter. They both spent the night in snow caves while our teams searched for them. Because of the conditions we pulled the teams from the field and waited for morning. With clearing sky we flew the state helicopter in the morning and located both patients. The first patient (with the cell phone) was quickly flown out. The second patient had more problems. His snow cave had collapsed in the night and he lost most of his gear. Without boots he was trying to inch his way down the mountain-side in his sleeping bag. In the process he triggered at least one good sized avalanche but was not substantially caught in it. The state helicopter landed nearby and tried to wave him over to it, but he just sat there and stared at them. It was decided to use Life Flight's hoist and we had him out fairly quickly. Both patients were evaluated at IC, the first was OK but the second had mild frostbite and hypothermia. The second patient was then transported by air to McKay-Dee where he was evaluated and released to his parents.

January 18, 2003, 3 pm—Missing 27 year old autistic male. This was a typical confused urban search. There were reports that he had walked away in the Uintah highlands area but also that he had been sighted in downtown Ogden. Tracks looked like he was headed down to US 89 but it wasn't clear. Jeff Stark responded with his bloodhound and backup teams were called. About 20 SAR members responded to help do a saturation search in the area. Jeff was cornered by the concerned family and tied up long enough that he never got to search! We were organizing the search when the patient was located nearby in a muddy pond. (He was in a pond SW of the church at Combe Rd. and Eastwood Blvd.) The patient was soaking wet and completely caked in mud. It was apparently warmer in the pond than outside so he entered the pond where he became totally submerged in the mud. He was suffering from mild submersion hypothermia and had mud partially blocking his airway. An impressive armada of family cars, sheriff's vehicles and fire and paramedic trucks rushed in to assess the patient (a job that had already been done by Jeff). At this point the rest of us went home happy that he was located quickly.

January 19, 2003, 3:07 pm—A middle-aged male snowmobiler. The group left from the snowmobile parking lot and were going to Powder Mountain. They reached Powder Mountain and were returning when they got separated. The responding deputy told the party to go back out and look for their friend. They returned at 6 pm and we initiated a callout. He was able to leave a message on a cell phone that he had hit a tree, the snowmobile was stuck in snow and he was on a ridge. The helicopter was called out and used the FLIR and the night sun. Two snowmobile teams and a few of the Winter Backcountry team member were requested to assist. Command got the GPS of where they thought he was, had the helicopter check and the snowmobile was located (about 1.5 miles from the parking lot) but he was not. They located the snowmobile at 9 pm and spotted his tracks. Unfortunately his tracks got lost among all the moose tracks. He was found the following morning at 7:10 am by helicopter. As part of this search, foot teams were sent up from the bottom while snowmobile teams searched the top. One of the foot teams spent part of the night hunkered down by a fire waiting for daylight so they could continue searching.

Article written by SAR member Brandon Fisher about this rescue: Not receiving word of a 9:30 pm callout until midnight left me with an unwanted warm bed and planning on a predawn dispatch. At 7 am I arrived on scene and seconds later the radio call came in with the ever-desired words, "We've got him spotted." The next task was to get Walter to safety. Stuck in a canyon between Monte Cristo and Powder Mountain, rescuing him was no quick task. A helicopter could not land close enough to Walter and tired searchers were more than two miles away from walking the lethargic man out. The next option



was to insert two SAR members near the man to assess and walk him to safety. Scott Combe and I, being the two 7 am arrivals, were ready to help out! The highway patrol helicopter placed us on the top of a steep cliff directly over Walter. We scurried down the incline, at times following Walter's now twelve-hour-old, tracks, which consisted mostly of his backside pushing snow. When we arrived he was relieved to be found. His hands were wet and cold; they looked as though he had been soaking in a bathtub for too long. He also mentioned that he shivered all night long, using up almost all his spare energy.

In the meantime the helicopter found a landing site half a mile north of us. Now the trick was to hike Walter out. We gave him a pair of snowshoes and helped him as he battled his way to the helicopter, falling several times out of pure exhaustion, and stopping every ten or so yards to catch his breath. Despite this, Walter pushed on. Channel Two news continually buzzed overhead, enthralled with each step. Upon seeing the helicopter a sigh of relief came from Walter knowing that he had made it to safety! The helicopter gave us an enjoyable ride back to incident command where Walter was greeted by his friends, relieved to see him alive.

And so it was the end of the search. The callout was the epitome of excitement. An all night search, freezing temperatures, helicopter intervention, assessment of the patient, and a snowshoe scurry followed by a final flight to safety. Truly the peak of excitement lies in the words of poet Kahlil Gibran, "You give little when you your give of your possessions, it is when you give of yourself that you truly give. And there are those who give it all. These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty." We must thank the Search and Rescue team, as they truly are the believers in life.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE—JOHN SOHL

We had **four rescue calls** since the last newsletter. Clearly, for these people and their families and friends, we are making an important difference in the lives of our fellow humans. As such, it is important that we have the skills that our patients are relying upon. (And the Directives require.) You are a wonderful group of people, I'm proud to be associated with you.

This month's **primary training will be hosted at Snowbasin**. Plan on spending most of the day. The primary target audience for the training is the Winter Backcountry team. Snowbasin is surrounded by rugged terrain into which it is easy to ski out of bounds—on purpose or by mistake. There are two primary goals of this training. **1.** Become familiar with skiing, snowshoeing and boarding the canyons surrounding Snowbasin. **2.** Learn a bit about telemark skiing.

We have had several successful night searches in the past in areas adjacent to Snowbasin. Most recently was the woman in Burch Creek Canyon and the two lost parties in Taylor's Canyon. It seems obvious that we need to get into this terrain in the daytime so that we can be familiar with it at night. You will need to bring your winter travel gear along with all the avalanche equipment you have, in particular, beacons, probes and shovels. We will meet at the ski patrol building at 10 am. The late start is to allow the resort to open up for the public first.

Those of you who are at this first training will get lift tickets (possibly for the ski school slope only) to teach, improve and learn telemark skiing. After we complete the primary mission of helping Snowbasin provide safety for their clients we will have a telemark clinic. If you have considered giving this a try, this is a great chance to practice. If you are a skilled tele-skier please help us with those who want to improve and those who want to try it out. Clearly, you will need telemark skis—you can rent them at places like Diamond Peaks (Ogden Valley) and Canyon Sports (Riverdale). Only people who actively participate in both the area familiarization and the telemark clinic will get lift tickets. If we run out of time and you have rented telemark gear, then some of us can go over to Powder Mountain for night skiing—you'll need to provide your own (\$17) lift ticket.

The Snowbasin training will be an all-day event, bring lunch or plan to purchase one. Make sure you have water and some minimal backcountry gear including climbing skins for your skis along with the avalanche equipment mentioned above. If you are on alpine skis you should consider packing snowshoes or at least bringing climbing skins.

This month's **Tuesday night training will be on cold weather injuries, hypothermia and frostbite**—I'll be teaching this class. There will be a session on winter patient packaging/transport—Jeff Woody and Richard Schroeder are the instructors.

The **winter search and GPS/compass training has been rescheduled for March 8th**. This training will center on the area between Monte Cristo and Powder Mountain and will include all winter teams.

The **dive team's ice dive** has been rescheduled—details will be announced as they become available. We wanted to target the perch party, but that might not happen this year.

Those of you who are on the (nontechnical) climb team should seriously consider the **lead climbing class at Ben Lomond Climbing Center** on February 10th. Remember to call ahead (801-737-7274) to reserve a spot, tell them you are with SAR and we'll cover the cost.

There were some **problems with** unfamiliarity with the state helicopter and the **800 MHz radios** on the last search. So look forward to classroom sessions on each of these. With the 800 MHz it is important to press the button then wait for the tone before talking. As for the helicopter—we will have a class on how to safely enter it, use of seat belts and doors etc.

We are hosting a **winter seminar** on February 21st, 22nd, & 23rd at North Fork Environmental Center. The cost is \$40 for each person. The applications will be mailed to all SAR organizations within the state, State Parks, Ski Patrol and Law Enforcement. SAR groups will have first priority. The limit is 50 people. We will cover the costs for WCSSAR members who are also instructors at the seminar. We'll discuss the curriculum and who is instructing at the Feb. Tuesday night general meeting.

While the Sheriff always has the final say, we have been requested to discuss **section 3.4 of the Directives**. In that section it states that SAR members must be 21 years of age to be allowed to join. There has been a request to lower that to 18. We will discuss this at the February general meeting. If you can't find your copy of the Directives, you can download a copy from the WCSSAR web site listed on the front of this newsletter. (Lots of cool pictures and links there too!)

There have been many **changes at the Sheriff's Office**. Chief A. K. Greenwood has retired and the new chief deputy is Chief Chris Zimmerman. The WCSO has taken over responsibility for law enforcement in Washington Terrace, as a result the former WT police chief is now with the WCSO as Lt. Merv Taylor. Because of the economy and budget tightening, the WCSO SAR representatives (Dpty. Toll, Sgt. Randall, Lt. Malan) all have other major assignments in addition to SAR. The Sheriff is trying to keep them associated with SAR but be prepared to work with other WCSO officers at IC at call outs. The administrative staff, especially Sheriff Slater and Chief Zimmerman, plan to attend some callouts and training activities. This will allow them to better understand what we do. Through it all, the Sheriff wishes to thank all those that are involved with Search and Rescue for their hard work. (And I might add, so do I.)

Three **new WCSSAR members** were interviewed at the last Executive Committee meeting: Nathan Foster, Kenneth Albert-





son and Jacob Saunders. Please help us welcome them aboard.

On a sad note, there were four members from WCSSAR who attended the **Memorial Service for the Life Flight crew** that died in the helicopter crash near the SLC airport. The service was very touching. We also sent a card on behalf of Weber County SAR expressing our sorrow and support.

CLIMBERS/BACK COUNTRY SKIERS NEWS:

See the director's message above for details about this month's extensive **training at Snowbasin**. Note also that there will be a **lead climbing class at the Ben Lomond Climbing Center**.

See the comment below in the Winter section about **avalanche transceivers**.

The county **snowmobile trailer** now has an avalanche rescue cache in it. There are grain shovels, probe poles and flags.

Richard Schroeder and Lane McPheeters will be handling a **Scout Huddle** on February 6th at Farr West Elementary. If you would like to help, please contact them ASAP.

We have backup winter support from some members of the **Snowbasin Ski Patrol** that are involved with SAR. That list is being updated. Expect to meet a few of them at the Snowbasin training.

DIVE/SWIFTWATER/AIRBOAT NEWS:

The outer shell for the **dry suit** has been received. Contact Art Plum for details.

K9 NEWS:

LOGISTICS/DISPATCH NEWS:

The Executive Committee discussed getting additional **GPS units** that can be used on a callout, just for spares. But it was decided that unless it is your GPS unit that you know how to operate, it is basically useless. People don't know how to use them unless they have practiced with them. It has been our observation that team members are having enough trouble using familiar units and that handing out units with unfamiliar menus and controls would just add to the confusion.

MEDICAL NEWS:

MOUNTED POSSE NEWS:

SEARCH/OHV NEWS:

WINTER RESCUE/SNOWCAT NEWS:

Lt. Malan has the **parking passes for the Monte Cristo** snowmobile parking lot. Contact him for the details or be at the Tuesday night meeting.

Lt. Malan and Dpty. Toll have put the skis back on the new **snowmobile patient toboggan**.

The **winter seminar** will be held February 21st, 22nd, and 23rd at North Fork Environmental Center. See the director's message for details. This will also be discussed at the next meeting.

The Executive Committee discussed purchasing some **avalanche transceivers** as back up units in case someone forgets to bring theirs. We have five extra Weber County SAR beepers that needed to be cleaned up. Richard Schroeder did that and we discovered that they were no longer functioning safely. Ultimately, this is a personal safety item that all back country winter travelers should have, understand and carry. It is important that you be in practice with YOUR particular unit and are able to quickly use it.

PREVENTATIVE SEARCH AND RESCUE NEWS:

FINAL NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks again to **Patsy Winchester** for her fantastic minutes!!!

When attending a call out (or any SAR event) always sign in/out on the attendance roster.

This newsletter is intended to be for the benefit of all WCSSAR members.

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