



Weber County Sheriff

Search and Rescue Training Newsletter



April 2003

TRAINING AND EVENTS CALENDAR 2003

APRIL

- 01 Classroom: Tyrolean Traverse & V-rig Pick-off *Richard Schroeder*
- 05 Practical: Tyrolean Traverse; 8 am waterfall Ogden Canyon *Brandon Fisher*
- 07 Natural Pro Lead Climbing (Ben Lomond Climbing Cen., **must prergstr.** 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
- 10-14 MRA 45th Annual Conference, California
- 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)

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.

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WCSSAR MEMBER OF:

MRA, NASAR, UTAH SAR

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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**

FEBRUARY/MARCH CALLOUTS:

March 1st, 1930 hrs. Four missing skiers at Snowbasin. Snowbasin ski patrol SAR members started searching the out of bounds areas for the missing skiers. Skiers, snowshoers and a few snowmobiles were put on standby. Jeff Malan flew in the state helicopter to use the FLIR while Snowbasin patrol started an initial hasty search. Tracks were found heading in the direction of Taylor's and Coldwater Canyons. Four WCSSAR backcountry skiers were staged at the top of 29th street for possible helicopter insertion to assist or relieve Snowbasin patrollers as needed. Turned out that Snowbasin patrol located the lost party at the top of Coldwater Canyon and were able to ski them around the ridge and back to the resort. The cancel page went out at by 2200 hrs and the incident was cleared.

The Snowbasin Ski Patrol did an excellent job of locating and evacuating the lost party. The entire operation went smoothly with one exception—communications. We had no communications with the state helicopter, not even 800 MHz for most of the search. Finally IC was able to contact Lt. Malan on the helicopter via his cell phone. At that point we then had 800 MHz contact with the chopper. Standard Operating Procedure should be for any helicopter used in SAR (at least initially) to make contact via AIR1 or AIR2 and then establish a channel to use with IC.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE—JOHN SOHL

Training for this month is mostly for the climb teams and those interested in being on the either the technical or non-technical climb teams. At our general meeting on Tuesday, April 1st, we will do a quick orientation on the Tyrolean Traverse & vertical pick off ("V-rig") systems. The field session will be on Saturday April 5th at 8 am at the western mouth of Ogden Canyon near the waterfall. This training features a very involved rope system and is a good way to get lots of hands on experience in roped rescue rigging. You must have a helmet and harness to participate. See the Climbers News section for a few more details.

Also, for those interested in participating in SAR with the climb teams, April 7th will be the last of the **series of introductory climbing classes at the Ben Lomond Climbing Center**. You must pre-register for this class and we will pay the course fee. See the Climbers News section below for more details.

While the **Winter Mock Search** was not actually a search training, it was definitely a good GPS training. (And a heck of a lot of fun too!) It certainly highlighted those members who knew how to use their GPS and map well. Communication on the hill was poor and needs to be improved. For any actual search in the area we will have to have someone on top to relay. There was substantial frustration with little or no radio contact with some of the teams. We have decided that we will implement a plan for contact with each team at certain intervals. Every so often teams will contact command and relay GPS and status, even if this means taking the extra time and effort to run up to the top of a ridgeline to get a radio link. This will allow command to check on the welfare of the teams and to provide them with new information and/or new instructions.

There is clearly a need for a radio class on how to work the 800 MHz radios. Despite initial concerns about potentially high avalanche conditions, ultimately the weather worked out well. The heavy equipment worked well too other than some trouble with a flatbed trailer which has now been fixed. We need for the radios and keys to be left in the snowcats. The 'cats are stored in a secured area (the County Shops) and are safe so this shouldn't be a problem. One problem is unauthorized and unnecessary personnel inside the mobile command center. Please, if you are not a team coordinator or in a command position, do not go inside the mob com. It is easy for things to get very confused inside IC and extra personnel chatting and wandering around inside is a big distraction that we don't need.



The **National Association of Search and Rescue** (NASAR) 2003 convention will be held in Reno during the last week of May. We will be sending Richard Schroeder, Jeff Stark, Don Olsen, Brandon Toll, Brad Randall, Jeff Malan and Sheriff Slater. The **Mountain Rescue Association** spring meeting will be held in mid-June near San Diego. The future of search and rescue will involve, in part, standards from these two organizations. If you are interested in learning more about either of them please contact me or any of the people that are attending the NASAR conference. WCSSAR will cover the registration fees for these conferences but you must get it pre-approved by Lt. Malan. (WCSSAR members are responsible for their own transportation, food and lodging.)

At the April 1st general meeting **Mike Jenkins will give out the certificates** to those who attended and passed the Avalanche II class. I'll also have the Avalanche Handbooks that were back ordered.

CLIMBERS/BACK COUNTRY SKIERS NEWS:

This month's training is the Tyrolean Traverse & V-rig pick off. This training is open to anyone either on or interested in the climb teams. Brandon Fisher will head the field training. He will also command one of the two field teams. Jared Randall will be the team leader for the second team. The field session will be on Saturday, April 5th at 8 am at the mouth of Ogden Canyon. **Please arrive prior to 8 am** to get your harness and helmet on and be ready to be assigned to a team promptly at 8 am. It is advised that you dress warmly and have a wind proof outer shell (at least a jacket, but wind proof pants would be nice too). We have often found that the morning canyon winds can be cold and unforgiving during this training. This is a good training session to learn about rock anchors, rope systems and mechanical advantages (z-rigs) if you are interested in learning more about what the climb teams do. This, along with swift water, is probably one of our most hazardous training sessions, please work with care and keep a close watch on each other.

On Monday, April 7th there will be a special training session on **Natural Pro Lead Climbing at the Ben Lomond Climbing Center**. You must pre-register by calling Wayne Aprill, 801-737-7274. This will be an excellent session for all members of the non-technical climb team. (Members of the technical climb team have no need to attend this class.) This training will be on beginning lead climbing using natural protection which is a required skill to be on the technical climb team. WCSSAR will pay the course fees. It is not known if (or when) these courses will ever be offered again. If you are interested in being more involved with the technical or non-technical climb teams this is a good session to attend.

The **MRA conference** will be held June 12–14, 2003. The early registration deadline is May 6th. If you register after that you will be responsible for the \$20 late fee. The meeting will be held in the mountains near Palm Springs, CA, and hosted by the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit from San Diego. There is also a pre-conference session June 10–12, 2003. The pre-conference will cover in-field leadership and in-field leader operations and procedures. The pre-conference will be hosted and taught by Tim Cochrane of Wildlands Rescue Workshop. Cochrane is a past president of MRA and organizer of other fine training sessions in conjunction with groups such as Las Vegas Police SAR. Cochrane puts together excellent training programs ask Rick Schroeder or Jared Randall about their experience with him. The main conference will include sessions on APRS, using pickets and flukes as snow anchors (with lots of pull test data), risks in mountain rescue operations, international SAR ops and child abduction SAR. The presenters are mostly scientists, engineers or law enforcement professionals and all are nationally known in SAR work. All of the presenters have put their professional skills to work in improving SAR operations. There will also be the usual MRA field sessions. If you have never attended an MRA conference you are missing an information packed and skills intensive experience.

DIVE/SWIFTWATER/AIRBOAT NEWS:

The **Ice Dive has been canceled**, there simply isn't any ice left. Don Olsen and Art Plumim will get some other training set up. Many of the divers have not been in the water with their gear for 9 months or more. It will be important to get a training set up and for everyone to be up to speed before we are on an actual call out. We still need to do the mixed gas training too.

K9 NEWS:

We want to have **K9 train with the dive team** for water cadaver search. We also need to practice doing **roped raising and lowering of the dogs** in the harnesses.





LOGISTICS/DISPATCH NEWS:

The **APRS system** did not function at the winter mock search. Clearly this system needs some more attention by the logistics team so that we can have it up and running as soon as possible.

We need a **radio class** on how to work the 800 MHz radios. Specifically we need to teach the teams how to select the channels and about the delay when you key the mic. They also need to know about the tone that you get when there is lost of signal. It would be helpful to discuss the different modes that these radios use (unit-to-unit and via repeater) and how those are affected by canyons and other obstructions. We also need to have cards laminated and attached to the radios with directions on how to dial up the specific frequencies that we typically use for SAR. It would be good to do this for the VHF units too.

Don Olsen will get with **dispatch** to set up a date for a **tour**. If you have not seen how the Ogden Weber Combined Dispatch center works then this is definitely worth attending.

MEDICAL NEWS:

Nothing new.

MOUNTED POSSE NEWS:

Nothing new.

SEARCH/OHV NEWS:

Spring is here; please make sure that your **OHV equipment** is in good functioning condition. We will soon be planning an OHV certification class. Also, it is our intention to call at least a small number of four wheelers on nearly every call out for everything from direct search and rescue to support efforts such as ferrying people and equipment up the trail. Also, by county insurance rules we must always have proper protection equipment such as helmets, stout boots, gloves, etc. You are not supposed to be allowed out of the parking lot without proper equipment.

WINTER RESCUE/SNOWCAT NEWS:

We are **missing an 800 MHz radio**. It was issued to someone at the Mock Search training. Please check your equipment to see if you accidentally have this radio. We need it back ASAP so we can get it charged and ready for its next use. Please do not use it to monitor public safety transmissions, we get charged based on the amount of use of each radio and each radio has a specific signature that is traced to our accounts.

PREVENTATIVE SEARCH AND RESCUE NEWS:

Jeff Stark is holding a **CERT class** that starts on March 27th at 6 pm and then continues on the following three Thursdays (April 3rd, 10th and 17th). It will be held at the Harrisville City Offices. If there is anyone interested in helping Jeff, he would appreciate it.

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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