



TWSMRT Newsletter

Message from the top Table

Operationally a quiet period but as ever the volunteers in the Team continue to work hard progressing several key developments for the Team. Adding to our many recent advances in training and skill levels, swift-water preparedness is now in full flow with all the equipment and funding secured. Numerous areas of progress are now very evident as you look around the Team. Responsibilities are being spread and the baseline financial position is being sustained. The efforts of fundraising are now diversifying into merchandising and the response to 'just giving' is encouraging. The transition to GPS tracking through new search management communications is just about there and will be fully tested out and applied in the forthcoming autumn to winter exercises. My aim, and I hope all of yours, is to ensure the time we give to the Team is to the things that brought us here in the first place – responding to call outs and training. The pressure on time and commitment from the other areas that we have to attend to, are there, but I do think we are getting better at managing this. Externally to the Team we are now, as a Team contributing very significantly to Regional and in particular National business. Paul R is involved in National Training and I am increasingly involved in the drive to modernise MR. I have been invited to talk to the National TL meeting in December and from August will be part of a small group from all over the UK looking at the way forward for MR E and W. In the long term both will bring benefits to TWSMRT.

As ever, thank you for your support. DBS

Profile: John Little

Full Name: John Little

Age: 30

Area of Responsibility within the team: IT and Water

Years in the Team: 8 years

School Nickname: Green Giant - at the time I had a green waterproof coat

Which cartoon Superhero would you be: The Road Runner

Lives how many miles from the Rescue Centre: 25

Lives at: Durham City

Lives With: Fiancée Claire who also helps the Team with data logging during callouts and training.

Current Occupation: Statistician working at CEM, Durham University

At School what job did you want to have when you were older: I'm still seeking a career plan.

Water Baby or Land Lover: Water Baby

Sports car or 4x4: More likely a minibus

Cinema or DVD: DVD

Dogs or Cats: Dogs

Sweet or Sour: Sour

Biggest / Best outdoor Achievement: 90 miles of the Cleveland way in a weekend

Best outdoor food / snack tip: The top of the mountain is usually the coldest and most exposed location - choose somewhere else for your lunch!

What' Mountain / Walking boots are you currently wearing: Scarpa

Best website you know of that should be shared: Google

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Profile: Jonny Taylor

Full Name: Jonny Taylor

D/O/B or age: 27

Area of Responsibility within the team: Treasurer

School Nickname: Shaggy (as in Scooby Doo rather than the rapper)

Which cartoon Superhero would you be: Inspector Gadget

Lives how many miles from the Rescue Centre: 25

Lives at: Durham

Lives With: Colleagues

Current Occupation: Physicist, freelance translator, aspiring Bond villain

At School what job did you want to have when you were older: Anything that wouldn't require me to wear a tie

Water Baby or Land Lover: Land Lover aside from occasional surfing

Sports car or 4x4: Campagnolo - the Ferrari of racing bikes

Cinema or DVD: DVD

Dogs or Cats: Dogs - proper working dogs, not yappy rat-dogs

Sweet or Sour: Sweet

Biggest / Best outdoor Achievement: Walking the GR20 long distance route in Corsica

Best outdoor food / snack tip: it is easy to survive for days on flapjack alone

What's Mountain / Walking boots are you currently wearing: Scarpa Mantas and Brashers

Best website you know of that should be shared: www.ukclimbing.com

*Have you completed a
Driving Assessment with
Mark Davis*

Cairngorm Winter Skills 09

The weekend after the heaviest snow falls the country had seen for years a dozen members of the team made their way up to the Scottish highlands for a weekend of winter skills training with instructor Bill Batson. The accommodation was Nethy station, a bunkhouse in the small village of Nethy Bridge. It accommodated for everyone with a room dedicated to the loud snorers on the team (they know who they are!) a room for the non-snorers and a cupboard for the girls (or girl!) affectionately named Narnia by the bunkhouse owners!

We had a relaxed start on the Saturday morning as some people had arrived in the early hours, and after a leisurely breakfast (some enjoying bacon after eventually realising they had to turn the cooker on to cook it!) we wandered up to the headwall of Coire Cas above the Cairngorm ski area. The day was spent sliding down the slope like lemmings off a cliff to practice ice axe arrests, creating snow bollards and axe belays to enable safe descents, digging snow holes and assessing slopes for avalanche risk. Then it was back to the bunkhouse for hot showers, curry, wine and some excellent talks by Bill on avalanche safety and navigation.

Next morning we were a lot quicker to get going, filled with enthusiasm after such a good first day. It was time to put some skills into practice with a day mountaineering in the northern corries. The weather was great, scenery was great, company was great and the skills we had learnt the day before worked! Even Skye was able to ascend the route on what was I believe her first grade two winter route! (In fact she was first)

Another early start on day three. The weather was turning milder and the snow beginning to melt. We were heading back to Coire Cas to practice stretcher lowers. This obviously meant lots of kit to carry. Simon's charm and good looks worked wonders with the men who ran the funicular railway up onto Cairngorm and they let us go up with our kit free of charge! This made the ascent a lot easier but we were disappointed to find when we got up that the temperature wasn't much colder than the valley and snow conditions were turning difficult and dangerous. We again put into practice the skills we had learnt and this time assessed that there was a real and significant avalanche risk. Taking this into account we did a multi stage stretcher lower into the Coire bottom. Once in the bottom we practised the technique for avalanche probing in conditions that were as it would be if we were doing it for real. It was then time to retreat from these snowy slopes and head back for more food, wine and fantastic slides of some of Bill's expeditions around the world.

All who took part agreed that it was a fantastic course. It was pitched at exactly the right level for those who were there and adapted accordingly as it went along. There was the right balance of learning, adventure, team building and fun with lots of laughter. It was a course that would be accessible for anyone on the team and I would urge you to sign up as soon as the next one is arranged. Otherwise be warned, this year's group will be signing up again if the next course promises to be even half as good as this one! Izzy Barnes.

Fundraising

We are very grateful to the support from Associate and Team Members at the Bishop Auckland Street Collection on 11 July, where the team collected £472.64 and made a further £70 in sales of merchandise. Anyone wanting to get involved can contact the fundraising officer at fundraising@twsmrt.org.uk

1 Aug – Middleton in Teesdale Carnival
1 Aug – Barnard Castle Street Collection
30 Aug - Hamsterly Hoppings
14 Nov – Durham Street Collection

Training

- 9th Sept - Training Review @ the Base.
- 19th Sept – Technical Rescue
- 20th Sept - Team Exercise – Stang Forest @ 0900hrs
- 23rd Sept – Bollihope / Carrs Top @ 1900hrs
- 4th Oct – NESRA Exercise

For further information regarding any of the above events please contact: training@twsmrt.org.uk

Great North Walk

Associate member Douglas Johnson is taking part in the Great North Walk 2009. He has asked if team members and friends to support him in his challenge by sponsoring him. All monies raised will be donated to TWSMRT.

Contact Details:

Douglas Johnson, douglas621johnson@btinternet.com

Just Giving

The Team has recently signed up to the Just Giving website. Just Giving (JG) is a web based system that allows anyone to set up a web page to raise money online or donate online. The individual nominates their chosen charity and chooses a template (for example running the Great North Run), which they can then personalise. The money is then passed directly to the Team. UK taxpayers that donate online, can also claim a tax benefit, which is organised by JG. The webpage can be found at www.justgiving.com/twsmrt or follow the link from our home page www.twsmrt.org.uk. If you have any queries or need any assistance with this, please contact us or send an e-mail to fundraising@twsmrt.org.uk

Call Outs

21.00 20/07/2009 Team callout

Call out to search for missing female in the Consett area. River & woodland search. SARDA dogs and swiftwater technicians deployed and assisted by Police helicopter. Stood down at 02.00 hrs nothing found. Missing person turned up safe and well the next morning at 0530hrs.

14.00 17/07/2009 Team callout

Team placed on standby by Police due to extensive flooding in the County. Stood down after 12 hours - Team not deployed.

10.41 14/07/2009 Team callout

Request by Police to assist in search for another missing male in the same area of the last search. HM Coastguard also involved. Body of missing person located and recovered by the Team

08.45 12/07/2009 Team callout

Request from Police to search for missing male in the Castle Eden Dene area of Peterlee. Police helicopter attended and HM Coastguard Teams searched shoreline. Body found and recovered by TWSMRT.

16.42 07/07/2009 Team callout

Team called to the Consett area to search for a lady missing from home since early morning. Missing person found safe and well by team member.

18.00 27/06/2009 Team callout

Standby consultation with Swaledale MRT in respect of family of four lost in thick fog near Tan Hill Inn on Pennine Way. Located safe and well prior to arrival of MR Teams

11.45 24/06/2009 Team callout

11.45 call out to search for male missing in Weardale area. Stood down en route as person located.

20.05 19/06/2009 Team callout

Search for missing person in the Faverdale area of Darlington. Search team stood down at midnight, awaiting further information from the Police.

09.50 29/05/2009 Team callout

Police request Team to search terrain and river following report of a person threatening to jump from a viaduct - nothing found

12.50 24/05/2009 Team callout

Team member first on scene at car crash in Durham City. Casualty care given until County Ambulance arrived on scene.

08.40 07/05/2009 Team callout

Team member assists a 78yrs old lady who had fallen in Bishop Auckland she had bad cut to the head, ambulance crew took to Bishop Auckland hospital.

15.15 19/04/2009

Team member assisted as first on scene at a paraglide crash on Skiddaw. Keswick MRT and RAF Leeming MRT attended. Casualty evacuated by RAF Seaking with serious leg injuries.

0730 07/04/2009 Team callout

Team called to Osmotherley (North Yorkshire) to assist Cleveland MRT in search. Missing person located as team en-route.

03/04/2009 Team callout

Team member came across member of the public who was in a despondent state. Team member looked after the casualty while waiting for county ambulance to arrive. Casualty transported to hospital by county ambulance.

0900 28/03/2009 Team callout

09.00 Team continued search for missing female in York.

12.01 26/03/2009 Team callout

Team member assisted an elderly male with a heart problem following a car crash in Bishop Auckland until the County Ambulance attended.

08.00 26/03/2009 Team callout

Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team were one of five mountain rescue teams from the North East involved in the search for missing York chef Claudia Lawrence. Miss Lawrence, 35 was last seen more than a week ago in York. Sixty five mountain rescue team volunteers from Teesdale, Swaledale, Northumberland, Scarborough and Cleveland spent today (Thursday) searching land along the route between Claudia's home and her work at York University. Dave Bartles-Smith leader of the Teesdale Team said "In the past our search skills were predominantly used in upland areas. However in the past few years these skills have been successfully adapted to searching in lowland areas".

10.50 16/03/2009 Team callout

Request by Police to assist following report of a person on a bridge parapet over the River Wear. Initial police search with dogs and helicopter and deployment of Team swiftwater technicians.

23.12 14/03/2009 Team callout

Call out to assist Swaledale MRT in search for two missing children. Searched through the night assisted by RAF Seaking and supported by additional resources from SARDA, Cleveland SRT, Kirby Stephen SMRT, North of Tyne SRT and Northumberland MRT. Boys located safe in search area as second phase started the next morning.

09.30 20/02/2009 Team callout

09.30 hrs standby request to assist Cleveland SRT. Team not deployed as missing person located soon after standby request.

17.00 12/02/2009 Team callout

Team called by police at 1700hrs to search for missing female from the Fishburn Area after during winter storms. Over 130 hours of searching carried out. Missing person located safe & well.

10.00 02/02/2009 Team callout

Team placed on standby by Police during continued blizzards.

13.00 31/01/2009 Team callout

Team Member in Lochnagar, Cairngorms assisted climber who had fallen approx 50m on 45° ice /snow before eventually self arresting with axe.

20.00 29/01/2009

Team SARDA dogs Skye & Holly respond to assist Scarborough and Ryedale MRT in search for missing child.

00.20 29/01/2009 Team callout

Request by Police to assist two Police Officers and a member of the public snowbound on one of the areas high level roads at almost 2,000 ft. Three Team members and Team land-rover attended and recovered personnel and vehicles.

17.30 25/01/2009 Team callout

17.30 male with young children snowbound near Tan Hill - concern was they were unsure where they were and may have gone off road - India 55 located and police 4x4 able to recover - initial plan in place with TWSMRT and SMRT - Team stood down prior to mobilisation

10.30 25/01/2009 Team callout

Request from police to help evacuate a male with a broken leg & Hypothermia from the River Derwent near Allensford Country Park. Injured male airlifted to hospital prior to team being mobilised.

Note from the Editor.

Please can you assist the with the next publication. Please send all articles, Stories from your travels, Places not to be missed, Events & Gossip to: Stephenmarrs@twsmrt.org.uk