

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Newsletter February 2008



Welcome to the February newsletter. As you can see we have had a busy few months with callouts and are going to be busy again with training in the next few months.

Callouts

8 Oct 07 - 19.30 hrs request by Police to assist with search dogs in wooded area near Durham City, in relation to ongoing enquiry. Strategy discussed and two Team SARDA dogs deployed. Nothing found.

12 Oct - 11.00 hrs request by Police to recover body of male from difficult ground under Hownsgill Viaduct. 6 Team members completed recovery.

24 Oct - 08.00 hrs Team placed on standby in relation to possible search in Seaham area for missing male. Stood down after person located safe by Police.

28 Oct - Team called by Police to search for male missing from home in the Durham / Chester Le Street Area. Mobile phone signal used to narrow down search area of missing male. Team stood down to allow Police to make further enquiries.

28 Oct - Team member came across an estate car with two male occupants stuck in Stanhope Ford with the river in spate condition. Accessed the ford from far side using 4x4 and attached tow rope. Recovered vehicle and occupants back to Stanhope side to await recovery of their vehicle.

17 Nov - 16.00 hrs request by Police to search for missing vulnerable girl in Stanley Co Durham. Search commencing when she was located safe several km distance. Team then returned to scheduled all night training exercise in the North Pennines.

6 Dec - 17.45hrs request by Police to assist in search of woodland in Teesdale following reports of screaming. Police helicopter in attendance.

Local Team members and 1 SARDA dog deployed. Stood down once concluded this was a false alarm with good intent.

21 Dec - 16.30 hrs request by Police to search for missing vulnerable male in Blackhall area. Three SARDA dogs deployed along with Team search control. Search of coastal fringe alongside HM Coastguard search teams. Nothing found.

7 Jan 08 - Team called to assist police.

17 Jan - 10.30 hrs request by Police to search for person believed to have fallen into river at Bishop Auckland. Search using Team SARDA dog, TWSMRT canoe group and Team swiftwater technicians. Police underwater unit and Police helicopter also attended. Stood down at dark - nothing found.

18 Jan - 10.00 Search continues from yesterday. Team canoe group deployed alongside police underwater unit. Nothing found.

19 Jan - 15.30 hrs request by Police to assist in search for missing child. Team en route when stood down as child found safe and well.

30 Jan - Extensive search of high moorland location in very poor weather for male missing from home.

1 Feb - The Team were called at 1.45 pm to recover stranded drivers from vehicles stuck in snow on the A66 between Bowes and Penrith. 10 team members plus a vehicle from Deepdale Off Road ferried motorists from their vehicles to a reception centre set up at Bowes village hall. We were assisted by Swaledale MRT in working west from Bowes. Kirby Stephen MRT were working east from Penrith. The two MR teams met up at 5.45pm. Once the A66 was cleared teams checked the minor roads and the B6276 from Brough to Middleton in Teesdale.

3 Feb - Continuation of search for missing male on fells in Weardale. Day long search assisted by NNPMRT, NoTSRT, Swaledale MRT and 4 SARDA dogs. Search of open fell. Nothing found.

16 Feb - 09.30 hrs Canoe search of River Tees in Darlington area for missing male. Nothing found.

22 Feb - 16.25 Brief standby to assist Swaledale MRT in search for missing hillwalkers near Tan Hill. Team SARDA dogs en route when persons located safe and well during initial response. KSMRT also on standby.

In Brief

We now have a shiny new LCD projector for taking to presentations and are setting up the old laptop from the Control vehicle to go with it.

We have also bought a new laptop for Control for log keeping during callouts, search planning, etc.

Richard Warne has managed to source a defibrillator for the Team. This has been updated and serviced and is now carried on Control.

Good luck to Richard Warne, Russel Warne, Donna Stewart and Pete Bell who are attending the NESRA Advanced Casualty Care course this Easter; and thank you to Paul Fell for helping them to prepare.

Congratulations to JohnO and Nut on passing their SARDA operational grading in extremely difficult weather in January.

Several team members carried out some winter skills training at Ben Nevis during February whilst staying at the CIC hut.

We are nearly 40

2008 will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Upper Teesdale Fell Rescue Association (as well as the 75th anniversary of MR in England). To mark the occasion we will be holding an open day at High Force on 23rd August and there are also plans for a book in time for Christmas.

Crag

TWSMRT Technical Rescue Group (TRG) completed a very satisfactory external inspection of their crag rescue skills in November. Our continued thanks to Mike Margeson and Bill Batson for their advice and support and a pat on the back for Paul Renwick and his assistants for bringing this complex and challenging area of the Team up to date.

Training

15-16/03	C list assessment
15-16/03	Night exercise Cow Green
20/04	Exercise Hamsterley Forest
11/05	Hill exercise
22/06	Water rescue exercise
20/07	Crag rescue exercise
23/08	High Force Open Day
21/09	Exercise
4-5/10	Exercise (NESRA)
8-9/11	Night exercise
14/12	Hill exercise

Fund-raising

A big thank you to Danny King for his heroic efforts running 10kms in a dress with a very heavy bucket of money collected for the Team.

Also another thank you to Charlotte Davis for completing the Great North Run to raise funds for the Team.

The Durham street collection in December raised over £1100

Forthcoming events are as follows:

29 March	Darlington Street Collection
3-5 May	Sea and Mud Challenge
21 May (Prov)	Sedgefield Racecourse collection
31 May-1 Jun	3 Peaks Challenge
7-8 June	3 Peaks Challenge
14 June	Stanhope Street Collection
23 Aug	High Force Open Day
6 Sept	Barnard Castle Street Collection
6 Dec	Durham Street Collection