



TWSMRT Newsletter

Message from the Top Table

First off: Happy new year!

A very busy rescue year has started already. 7 Call outs since the New Year totaling 1200hrs of Rescue & Search.

Visit <http://www.twsmt.org.uk/callouts.php> to view all call-outs.

Inside this issue you will find 2 Team member profiles, Expedition notes and loads more.....

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Profile: Dave Bartles-Smith

Full Name: DBS

D/O/B or age: 21 ish.....

Area of Responsibility within the team: Team Leader

Years in the Team: 14 years I believe

School Nickname: Battleship

Which cartoon Superhero would you be : Paul Renwick

Lives how many miles from the Rescue Centre: 25

Lives at: Lanchester

Lives With: Catherine, Oliver, Tom , Andrew, monkey, Agatha, Rosey and Georgia

Current Occupation: Somewhere in the criminal justice system! That's all I am going to say.

At School what job did you want to have when you were older: Team leader of TWSMRT

Water Baby or Land Lover: Definitely land

Sports car or 4x4: Used to be into rallying – so I like a quick car – the best ever I had for a while to drive was a blueprinted, tuned up V6 sierra XR 4 – rear wheel drive! Just keeping it in a straight line was an achievement

Cinema or DVD: Cinema

Dogs or Cats: Dogs

Sweet or Sour: Sour

Biggest / Best outdoor Achievement: Most amazing moment was coming face to face with two wolves when walking by myself near the summit of Mulhacien in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Best outdoor food / snack tip: From someone I spent some time in the cairngorms once in winter – he bought three portions of fish and chips in Edinburgh – ate one lot in the car on the drive up the A9 and then kept the rest in his rucksack and that kept him going for the next two days and nights on the hill !

What Mountain / Walking boots are you currently wearing: Salomon Alps and my trusty old Koflachs !

Best website you know of that should be shared:

<http://www.wetterzentrale.de/topkarten/tkinfo.html>

Without a Team – there is no Team!

Profile: Anthony High

Full Name: Anthony High

Age or DOB: 35

Area of Responsibility within the team: "A" list member and new member's rep

Years in the Team: 22 months

School Nickname: Cuckoo, have no idea why, well im not telling ye

Which Cartoon Superhero would you be: incredible hulk, just Because he is green and that's my favorite colour and he is massive

Lives how many miles from the Rescue Centre: 30 miles from the Rescue House!!

Lives at: Sunderland

Lives with: live with my wife (Katherine) and 4 children Megan, Erin Lewis and Abbie.

Current Occupation: Kitchen Fitter (Always looking for me work!!)

At School what job did you want to have when you were older: to either work for the forestry commission or RSPCA

Water Baby or Land Lover: Land Lover

Sports Car or 4x4: 4X4

Cinema or DVD: dvd, cant get babysitters

Cats or Dogs: Dogs

Sweet or Sour: Sour

Biggest Outdoor Achievement: Backpacked west highland way, completed all the Wainwrights above 2000ft(my faves)

Best outdoor food / Snack Tip: Raisins

What Mountain / Walking boots are you currently wearing: Raichle 60 degrees

Best website you know that should be shared: www.twsmt.org.uk

*Have you completed a
Driving Assessment with
Mark Davis?*

Your New Committee (Elected Nov 2008)

President

Hon Harry Vane

Vice President

Alan Best
Jon Stoddart,
Cedric Scott,
The Earl of Strathmore and Kinghome,
David Thompson,
Chris Scott,
Ian Findlay
David Clarke

Team Leader

Dave Bartles Smith

Deputy Team Leaders

Adam Hearn, Stephen Marrs &
Chris Roberts

Hon. Secretary

Donna Stewart

Hon. Treasure

Jonny Taylor

Training Officer

Paul Renwick

Casualty Care Officer

Paul Fell

Equipment Officers

Simon Stewart

Group Leaders

John Little, Pete Bell
David Robinson & Richard Warne

Public Relations Officer

Steve Owers

Fundraising Officer

Anthony Tubbs

Transport Officer

Mark Davies

Team Members Reps

Tony High & Russell Warne
Colin Radley & Adam Hearn

SARDA Rep

Des Toward

Associate Members Rep

Paul Jenkins

IT Officer

John Little

Youth Team Leader

Izzy Barnes

Owers & Hours of Traveling!

I arrived in Quito the capital of Ecuador 24hs after leaving home in the UK to be met by our Ecuadorian guide Gaspar Navarrete. After a couple of hours I met some of the other members of our group, Bill and Dave, brothers from Michigan USA. We drove to Catequilla and did a short walk to an ancient site on the equator. This was followed by an excellent meal at a very nice restaurant, this is my kind of climbing. In the evening we were invited to the home of Javier Herrera to watch a slide show of what we could expect from our trip. We also met the remaining member of our group Eleni from Canada.

After a day spent sightseeing and acclimatising in Quito we climbed our first mountain Pasochoa (4200m). I could not believe how much this mountain reminded me of the Lake District in the UK with regard to scenery and terrain. The weather was also very similar, sun, cloud, light rain, heavy rain and thunder all in one day.

Our next objective was Guagla Pichincha (4794m). We were dropped off 400m below the mountain refuge in order to further acclimatise and we reached the top just as the clouds came in. One of our group stopped at the refuge because of problems with acclimatisation. Fortunately this was the only time any of us suffered any problems. We returned to Quito in order to pack ready for the next 12 days when we would hopefully archive our main objectives of the trip Cayambe and Cotopaxi.

We drove the following day to the village of El Chaupi where we met our second guide Ramiro Garrido before setting up camp at La Virgen below the slopes of Illiniza Norde (5126m) We set off at 6am the following day after witnessing a beautiful sunrise with great view across to Cotopaxi. The weather remained bright until we reached the refuge at 4650m. As we started to climb the ridge the clouds rolled in. Gaspar needed to cut steps across a snow traverse before we could attempt the final climb to the summit which we reached by 12am. After stopping for a few minutes we started to descend because of the thunder and lightning and the heavy snow which had started to fall. We descended the 1226m to our camp in a little over 2 hours, looking back as the weather cleared we thought "have we just come down that route, it looks almost vertical in places".

The next 2 days we spent resting and travelling towards Cayambe village the starting point for our next mountain Cayambe (5789m). We were again dropped off 300m below the hut and we walked up the track to the Cayambe refuge in time for lunch. In the afternoon we climbed onto the glacier to practice alpine skills. Towards the end of the session we were practicing ice axe breaking when Dave injured his upper arm in a freak accident. Both our guides dealt with the situation in a very professional manner and Dave was walked off the mountain to the hut just as darkness fell. By the next morning it was obvious that Dave's condition had not improved so he was taken the 4 hour journey by 4x4 to hospital in Quito. Unfortunately Dave had to return home to the USA the following day. After more glacier training in the morning we rested in the afternoon ready for our climb of Cayambe the following morning.

Our 1 am start found us climbing the mountain in the light of a full moon with great snow conditions. We made steady progress with all of us finding the middle section very tiring and the cold especially intense around dawn. We got to the top however just after 8 am to be rewarded with great views of all the mountains we had climbed previously sticking out of the clouds. We also had a good view of a volcano which had started to erupt 3 days previously resulting in the closure of Quito airport for a few hours. The decent was especially tiring due to the sun increasing the temperature dramatically. We arrived back at the hut at 11am after a very tiring but extremely enjoyable climb.

We again had 2 rest/travel days before we arrived at our base for our last mountain the excellent Tambapaxi Lodge in the Cotopaxi national park. We arrived in late afternoon to find the lodge surrounded in dense fog but as we woke the following morning we saw what the lodge is famous for, its panoramic views of Cotopaxi. We decided we would carry our kit to the Cotopaxi refuge today and leave it overnight ready for our summit attempt the following day. We were accompanied on our carry by 50+ young people on a school trip to the hut. Most including the teachers were wearing jeans and trainers at 4800m in thick fog with the temperature just above freezing. Teachers in the UK would have nightmares about a similar scenario. Thankfully they all got back to their buses safely.

It was another 1 am start for our attempt on Cotopaxi. Although we again had moonlight our head torches were needed this time. The snow on Cotopaxi was very soft making for difficult climbing throughout our ascent. Gaspar and I reached the summit after five and a half hours just after dawn. We got some great views of the volcano cone with smoke drifting out of it as well as many of the surrounding mountains. We passed our other group of Ramiro, Bill and Eleni on our way down. They made the summit two hours after us. When we all met up in the hut some hours later it was a great feeling that we had all managed to reach the summits of our two main objectives Cayambe and Cotopaxi.

It would not be right to finish this report without highlighting the part played by our Ecuadorian guides Gaspar and Ramiro. Gaspar was with us throughout the 3 weeks, his local knowledge and his willingness to take us to places off the beaten track really made a difference. Ramiro joined us for the 3 highest peaks and his friendly attitude added greatly to our enjoyment. A true test of a guide however is his skills in the mountains. Although they are both young men I always felt 100% confident in their skills and abilities. They had just the right balance between catering for an individual's needs and encouragement when the going got tough. A big thank you to them both and all the Jagged Globe staff who assisted in making this a very enjoyable trip.

Fundraising Events

- Sedgefield Young Farmers Presentation – 10th Feb
- Stockton Young Farmers – 17th Feb
- Durham City Young Farmers – 10th March
- Darlington Street Collection – 4th April
- Elwick Young Farmers – 7th April

Training Events

- Winter Skills – Scotland – 13th – 17th Feb
- Technical Rescue – 21st Feb
- Team Exercise – 22nd Feb – Lunedale
- Wednesday night training - 4th March – Goldsbrough - (Searching Ex)
- Swiftwater Training 14th March
- Team Exercise – 15th March – Weardale
- Wednesday Night training – 18th March – Base -(Crashed Aircraft)
- Wednesday Night Training - 1st April – Bollilhope Quarries - (Security on steep ground)
- NESRA Advanced Cas Care – 15th – 19th April
- Technical Rescue – 18th April
- Team Exercise – 19th April – Middleton In Teesdale.

T-Shirts

Supporter T-Shirts displaying "I support the Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team" are now available for purchase.

Paul Jenkins – The newly appointed Associate Members Rep, holds the stock.
Simply complete the form below and post (with Payment) to the Rescue Centre.

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Contact Tel No:

Quantity: Small = Medium= Large = X Lrg =

£7.50 each

P&P £2.50

Order 3 or more Postage Free

Please allow up to 14 Day's delivery

Amount enclosed £

+ P&P @ £2.50 = £

Cheque made payable to TWSMRT

Post To: Paul Jenkins, TWSMRT, Rescue Centre, Bede Kirk, Barnard Castle, DL12 8DJ

Call Outs

Date	Nature	Description
10.00 02/02/2009	Team callout	Team placed on standby by Police during continued blizzards.
1300 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.
18.30 29/01/2009	Other	18.30 hrs Team SARDA dogs respond to assist Scarborough and Ryedale MRT in search for missing child
00.20 29/01/2009	Team callout	00.20 hrs 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 Landrover attended and recovered personnel and vehicles.
1730 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 mobilization
1030 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 mobilized.
0130 25/01/2009	Team callout	Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team have been coordinating a search overnight for a man missing from home in Easington Colliery, County Durham. The middle aged man was last seen when he left his home at 1.30pm Saturday and did not return. The Teesdale & Weardale team and the police searched the area around Easington Colliery overnight in driving rain. When the man had not been found by first light mountain rescue teams from Cleveland, Northumberland and Swaledale were called in to assist. More than 50 mountain rescue volunteers with 5 mountain rescue search dogs with police support expanded the search area at first light. At around 11.30 am the Police helicopter picked up a heat source and within a few minutes a mountain rescue team located the missing man near a stream to the south of Easington Colliery. The man was airlifted by the police helicopter to a waiting ambulance where he was taken to Hartlepool General Hospital. Dave Bartles Smith Weardale & Teesdale team leader said " This is the second major search we have been involved in this week. On both occasions the mountain rescue community came together to deliver a successful outcome. It is gratifying to know that volunteers will freely give up there time and travel many miles out of their own area in order to search for missing people."
2330 19/01/2009	Team callout	A LONE fell walker from London was dramatically rescued from the highest point in the Pennines about 9 a.m. this morning after an all-night search by fell rescue volunteers The alarm was raised by the man's family about 11.30 p.m. last night when he failed to reach an agreed point on his hike along the Pennine Way. More than 50 search and rescue volunteers from teams in Durham, Cumbria, Swaledale, Cleveland and Northumbria were mobilized and snow clearing crews from Durham County Council were call out to clear roads in the Langdale Beck area to allow the search to begin. The police helicopter and an RAF helicopter were also involved. The search teams on the ground were hampered by freezing conditions and snow drifts up to five feet deep. The walker was located at 9 a.m. this morning after he was able to get out a call on his mobile phone. He was airlifted out of a point near Cross Fell, the highest point on the Pennines and taken to Cumbria. He is not thought to be injured.
0900 21/12/2008	Team callout	0900hrs request by Swaledale MRT for Team assistance in search for missing person. Ten team members a two search dog's (Skye and N.U.T) attended. Teesdale foot team located the body of the missing person on the dam wall around 1200hrs. The body was retrieved by police divers and assisted by both Swale and Teesdale team members.
1712 20/12/2008	Other	Team Search dog Skye was called to assist Swaledale MRT to search for a missing male for the Leighton area, Concern for the missing 22 year olds wellbeing was raised by family. Immediate search of the area where the missing male's car was located. Swaledale MRT after four hours of searching & nothing found it was decided to start at 0800hrs the following morning with additional personnel from TWSMRT, Upper Warthdale MRT and Search dog's.
0800 19/12/2008	Team callout	Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team have been carrying out a search overnight for a missing 81 year old man. The gentleman was last see at his home in Stanhope Co. Durham just after lunch yesterday.(Thursday). 19 Rescue Team volunteers and 3 mountain rescue search dogs searched for 8 hours last night assisted by police officers and the air support unit. The

		search recommences at first light with the assistance of neighboring mountain rescue team. Stephen Marrs Rescue Team Controller said "We had started to go over ground searched during the night and expand our search with the help of the Cleveland Team when a friend of the gentleman's family found him close to a quarry to the North of the town. We were able to get one of our medics to the scene within a few minutes. We decided that the safest option was to carry the gentleman to the Police helicopter which had landed 200m from the scene. Because of a steep slope we were assisted by a number of police officers and an ambulance crew. The man was taken to James Cook hospital by the police helicopter".
1828 18/12/2008	Team callout	Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team are coordinating a major search for a elderly man missing from the Stanhope area of County Durham. The 81 year old gentleman was last seen just after lunch on Thursday. Overnight 19 members of the Teesdale & Weardale team worked with 3 mountain rescue search dogs, police officers and police air support to search areas to the north of the town. Team spokesman Steve Owers said " We found no sign on the man overnight so we will be expanding our search today (Friday). We have asked for assistance from all of the North East Mountain Rescue Teams so we can cover the extensive fell and quarry areas close to Stanhope".
0135 17/12/2008	Team callout	Team requested to assist in search for missing child in the Ferryhill area. Child found safe and well by the Police as Team members were en route to the incident.
04.00 04/12/2008	Team callout	04.00 hrs Team 4x4 capacity on standby during heavy snowfall. Stood-down at 12.00hrs.
1205 14/11/2008	Team callout	12.00hrs Consultation by Police with Team leader on search for a missing male. Initial strategies identified in these discussions lead to finding of the male by Police.
17.00 30/09/2008	Team callout	Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team were called out this evening (Tuesday) to search for a missing women. The middle aged women from the Crook area went missing around lunchtime. Her car was found on remote moorland track to the north of Hamsterly Forest in County Durham at 5pm. Fifteen mountain rescue volunteers, three mountain rescue search dogs, six police officers and the police helicopter were involved in the search. Steve Owers Rescue Team spokesman said "We started the search just as darkness was falling. As the evening went on we finally were able to make contact with the lady on her mobile phone. She was unable to tell us her location so it took 15-20 minutes of talking to her and asking her various questions to try and establish a rough search area. We were able to use the police helicopter as a reference point and ask her to describe where she was in relation to the aircraft. We then sent out a search group and we found her within a few minutes at around 8pm". The women was then taken to hospital by ambulance.
1200 28/09/2008	Team callout	Assisted crag fast family group up the scramble at the end of Sharp Edge. Two male & one female
1700 27/09/2008	Team callout	The Team was asked by the RSPCA and Fire & Rescue Service to assist in the rescue of a young Harris Hawk stuck in a tree. Three team members attended. The bird eventually flew down to safety.
20.30 24/09/2008	Team callout	20.30 hrs request by Police to search area next to Hury Reservoir following possible sighting in relation to missing person incident yesterday (44-2007/2008)in nearby Cumbria. Police helicopter and small search group with 1 SARDA dog attended. Nothing found.
1700 23/09/2008	Team callout	Search dog (Skye) was called to assist a neighboring team (Kirby Stephen Mountain Rescue Team) to search for a missing person in the Tan Hill area. They were stood down around 2200hrs, the search has continued today (24th Sep) with several teams being called in to assist.
12.30 05/09/2008	Team callout	12.45 hrs request by Police to assist in search for a grouse beater lost and injured. Location uncertain and eventually thought to be in Allenheads area, incident then transferred to NOTSRT.

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