



## Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team Newsletter October 2007

**Welcome to the October newsletter.** Lots to report due to the length of time since your last newsletter. My apologies!

### Callouts

#### **11/06/07**

09.30 hrs request by Police to search for missing vulnerable male in the Shildon, Brusselton Woods area. Two Team SARDA dogs deployed with Team support and assisted by Police helicopter and Police resources. Nothing

#### **15/06/07**

12.15 hrs request by Swaledale MRT to assist in search for 17 year old soldier missing in swollen stream. Search of flood corridor and surrounding terrain. SARDA dogs, RAF Leeming MRT and RAF helicopters also deployed alongside military and Police. Search stood down at 22.00 hrs to recommence at first light.

#### **16/06/07**

07.30 hrs continuation of search for missing soldier. Search involved NESRA MRT Teams with the support of military and the Police. Team SARDA dogs also attended. Body of soldier located by a TWSMRT search group.

#### **24/06/07**

03.15 hrs. Urban rescue request by Police to assist in evacuation of an injured male from scaffolding. Fire service and ambulance in attendance. Casualty evacuated onto attending Fire Service Aerial Ladder.

#### **01/07/07**

01.30hrs Request by Police to assist in search for a vulnerable teenager from the Chester Le Street area. Missing person found in South Shields as the SARDA handler was commencing his search.

#### **06/07/07**

20.35 hrs Request by Police for assistance following report of a 13 year old girl lost and distressed in steep wooded ravines of Castle Eden Dene. Team placed on standby, SARDA dog en route when Police helicopter located girl.

#### **10/07/07**

11.45 hrs brief standby to assist Northumberland National Park MRT and North of Tyne SRT in search from missing male. Team not deployed as person located.

#### **12/07/07**

16.15 hrs request by Police to search for missing vulnerable male in the Peterlee area. Steep gorges and wooded Denes. 2 Team SARDA dogs deployed, with support from Police helicopter. Search about to commence when person located safe by Police outside of area

#### **05/8/07**

Team requested to help North of Tyne and Northumberland National Parks Mountain Rescue Teams in search for missing farmer near Gibside, Burnopfield.

#### **05/08/07**

20.55hrs Consultation with police as to the best way to gain access to the top of Cauldron Snout and the Dam Wall. Two elderly walkers had become separated whilst trying to raise help as their dog had injured itself.

#### **06/08/07**

08.00hrs Continuing search for missing farmer near Gibside. Canoe Search Team deployed to search River Derwent. Missing person found as part of the wider search operation.

#### **19/08/07**

13.00 standby request from Swaledale MRT to assist in search for missing hill party in Tan Hill area. Kirby Stephen MRT also on standby. Two Team SARDA dogs sent ahead. Stood down when group turned up safe. Weather cold, wet and poor visibility.

#### **24/8/07**

12.45 hrs request by Police to recover body of male, with gunshot wounds, from a fell side in Weardale.

#### **23/09/07**

19.25hrs Standby to assist Northumberland search teams. Team not deployed as person located by Police.

**In addition to the above our SARDA handlers have had a further 5 callouts.**

### Fundraising

The 3 peaks challenge during the summer raised £6500 for the team – our thanks and appreciation go to Durham University Charities Kommittee (DUCK) for their continued support.

Corus held a charity dance with the proceeds of £2000 going towards our Communication and PPE project, many thanks to them.

Team member Danny King has been on the pull again entering the Middlesbrough 10K run and raising £200 for the crag team. He is also taking part in the Great North Run – (watch out for the dress) along with a number of other team supporters.



Danny King aka Marilyn Monroe

The **Street Collections** have once again shown how valuable they are to fundraising: Stanhope raising £440 and Barnard Castle raising £519.

Once again we must thank our **associate members** who regularly attend these events and **welcome** any other associate members to contact our Fundraising Officer if they would like to help out at our next one in **Durham on 8<sup>th</sup> December**. We also give thanks to the Durham Rams Morris Men, who gave a very generous jig at the Stanhope collection and passed their proceeds on to us.

### Youth Team News

Over the summer the youth team spent time raising money for their trip to visit an Icelandic Rescue Team. This involved bag-packing in Morrisons and scaling the heights of Everest....or at least the equivalent height by climbing our wall at the base many, many times throughout the night!

The Youth Team Leader reported that the trip to Iceland had been very successful and enjoyable and the team should endeavour to continue links with them for future visits.

### Technical Rescue Group Developments (Crag team)

As reported in the last newsletter, under the guidance of Paul Renwick the TRG has moved forward enormously with the development of Crag Manuals and intensive training. They were recently visited by Bill Batson - Technical Adviser who was very positive and encouraging about the developments made. During September a TRG weekend was held to disseminate these developments to the rest of team. Those who attended were very impressed with the new systems and their simplicity, allowing any team member with a few hours intensive training to be able to assist/set up a highline across High Force and Holwick Scar.



Any team members who missed the weekend but are interested in training with the crag team should contact Paul.

A further visit is expected in November by Mike Margeson - technical Advisor to the MRC and we wish them luck for this – no pressure!!!

More information about this in the next newsletter.



### Team News

It has been agreed that in order for the current team to develop their skills, new intake will now only be bi-annually. This means the next new intake will be in Spring 2009.

**Water PPE** has been purchased and Swiftwater technicians have updated their training. Basic swiftwater skills are to be included in team training in the coming year.

**Cas Care Developments** - Pulse Oximeters and a defibrillator have been purchased. 3 team members have been put forward for advanced cas care training course next year, they will attend a preliminary selection course in December – good luck to them!

Any event now requesting the teams' presence to provide first aid cover will have to complete a request form providing details of what is expected and what facilities are available. Any queries, contact the cas care officer.

The base has been painted externally, thanks to those involved. If any team member notices a problem with any aspect of the building then this should be reported to the Building manager in the first instance and problems with kit, to the Equipment Officer.

The base has also now been networked – many thanks to team members Richard Glover and Colin Bearpark for all their hard work.

### **Reminders**

Only A-list team members vehicles should now be displaying standard issue team stickers.

In light of recent terrorist activity, an increase in security is required from all team members. All A-list members have now been issued with a membership card which should be carried on all team business. Ensure you

know who you're talking to when discussing team business as there have been a couple of incidents recently with imposters. Should you be made aware of this type of activity, please report it to the Team Leader immediately.

All C-list members are asked to contact their mentors in the next few weeks in preparation for their final assessment in the New Year.

### **AGM**

It's almost that time of year again! The AGM is to be held Thursday 8 November 2007 at 19.30hrs. The AGM page is now open on the website. Nominations will close one week before the AGM.

It is with regret that we have accepted the resignations of both our **Youth Team Leader** and **Transport Officer** and our thanks go to Chris Roberts and Anthony McAdam for the many hours they have devoted to their positions.

**It should be noted that all positions on the team are up for nomination although this is limited to A-list members only (unless co-opted). Should you wish to be nominated or to nominate someone else, please contact the Team Leader, Secretary or Webmaster.**

### **Committee Reminders**

Any purchases now require a purchase number from CS until the online system is up and running.

All budgets are to be completed and returned to CS ASAP.

We are now well into the first year of the 5 year plan and although this first year is very much a trial run, with much expected expense, all year one plans must be completed for the January meeting – these should detail your expected expenditure (which CS has already detailed) as well as any items on your wish list and how you expect to fundraise for them – any problems speak to DBS.

### **Training**

14/10/07 NESRA ex

03/11/07 Crag Team inspection visit

17-18/11/07 Overnight Ex

Team members are reminded they are expected to attend 5 Sunday exercises and 5 Wednesday night training sessions per year and 1 overnight exercise every 2 years.

### **Special Thanks**

Peter Bell the designer and manufacturer of the infamous bell stretcher has now retired. TWSMRT would like to extend their thanks to him for all his imagination, development and support over the years.

### **Celebrations – help needed!**

Next year TWSMRT will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in addition to the MRC's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We plan to hold a challenge walk and family day at High Force, a Celebration Dinner and hopefully compile and publish the team's history. Obviously the latter is a mammoth task and help is needed from anyone who can supply stories, anecdotes, photos etc which can all be included. A lot of information is already held but needs bringing together. So if you fancy being named as an author or editor or you can provide any other help then please contact the Team Leader.