

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Rescue Team Newsletter December 2005



Dates for the Diary: The Christmas social will be at The Forrester's Hotel in Middleton on Friday 16th December. It starts at 19.00 with the buffet at 19.30 followed by a quiz. A presentation will be made to Ian Findlay to thank him for his 32 years of contribution to the Team. The Bishop Auckland Street collection is on Saturday 4th February 10.00 – 16.00. Please let John know via fundraising@twstr.org or 0191 3772383 if you are able to attend. Other street collections this year are: 1/4/05 (provisional) - Darlington, 24/6/06 Stanhope, 2/9/06 Barnard Castle (provisional), 9/12/06 Durham (provisional) – all support very welcome. The next committee meeting is on 2nd March with the next newsletter soon after (2nd March deadline for submissions). The 2006 recruitment evening will be on the 25th January, with an induction weekend on the 22nd - 23rd April. Applications this year will be accepted on paper or online.

Roundup of Team activities: The Durham Street collection raised over £1080 and we sold over 60 sets of notelets. Thank you to everyone who supported us. A special thank you to the Associate Member helpers, some of whom spent the whole day collecting for us.

Committee: A new committee was elected at the AGM. **Team Leader:** David Bartles-Smith. **Deputy Team Leaders:** David Clark, Steve Owers, Chris Roberts. **Treasurer:** David Clark. **Training Officer:** Adam Hearn. **Group leaders:** Peter Bell, Mark Binney, Stephen Marrs, Keven Shevels. **Equipment Officer:** Mark Binney. **Radios:** Martin Huitson. **Members Reps:** Paul Fell, Karen Fisher, Helen Mortimer, Russell Warne. **Press Officer:** Steve Owers **Associate Members Rep:** Paul Renwick. **Youth section training officer:** Chris Roberts. **Medical officer:** Richard Warne. **Transport officer:** Anthony McAdam. **IT officer:** John Little. **SARDA rep:** Des Toward. **NESRA reps:** Adam Hearn, Chris Roberts, DBS. **Police liaison officer:** Insp. Kevin Tuck.

Chris Scott will continue in his book keeping role. Donna Stewart has been co-opted as Team Secretary, Izzy Barnes as a Group Leader, Dennis Marrs as building officer and Colin Radley. The Fundraising Officer post has not been filled - anyone interested in organising a fundraising initiative should speak to DBS.

Durham police have re-iterated that the Team will not suffer as a result of the forthcoming reorganisation. Kevin Tuck's role in the police is to change in the New Year - and whilst he will still actively support the Team on bigger matters, he is delegating the day to day contact to Sgt Bob Danby.

Post-exercise reports will now be posted on the website shortly after each exercise. Any comments to Adam.

Equipment: The Team needs a new dehumidifier – anyone able to help should contact Donna.

Membership Andrew Smyth has resigned from the Team due to changing work commitments, Andrew Kerr asked to move to C list. A number of C list members have now been given Associate Membership.

Constitution A group has been set up to review the constitution.

Membership cards will be available to A list Team members shortly. Any C list member needing evidence of Team membership should speak to the secretary.

Team Members are asked to remember that good relations with farmers and landowners are essential to the Team.

Cas-Care Kits: Problems with the Cas-Care kits have continued. We will now be trying a new system where each (training) casualty will “supply” the equipment needed for their treatment so there will be no need to open the sealed Cas-Care kits (which will still be carried).

Chris Lomas, John Little, Donna Stewart, Simon Stewart, Andrew Maddison, Bev Holmes, Colin Bearpark, Dave Robinson, Scott Bisett, and Tom Keenan passed their basic Cas-Care exam earlier this month. Congratulations to them all.

Base: An emergency base key is now held at the police station. A list Team members will have to show their membership card and have telephone authorisation from the duty controller. Any Team member requiring regular access to the base will still be provided with their own key.

Hopefully by the time you read this, problems with the skylights will have been fixed. Durham police have been approached for a contribution of £500 towards the work.

There have been some major changes of storage of equipment on vehicles. Control is now the primary source of equipment particularly the crag gear and bell stretcher.

IT: Each team member now has a personal online training logbook. Training in its use will be provided as required by the IT officer.

Broadband will shortly be available at the Base. IT Training (and support) will be available as required.

A lesson planner has now been set up online to archive all the Team's training. Small files will be uploaded onto the website with larger files being held at the base or converted into a more efficient format.

Information will shortly be requested from Team members about the mileage they drive on Team business. The committee will then look into securing funds to reimburse this cost. Team members who do not want their fuel cost reimbursed should still participate since they may still be able to donate expenses back to the Team.

All Team members with Base or other access keys are asked to complete the online key survey so we can ensure Team records are up-to-date.

Information will also be requested to help set up an effective telephone back up to the PageOne SMS system. Please try and reply to these request as swiftly and accurately as possible.

An additional online SMS system has now been set up. This system costs the Team about 3p per message (no standing charges) and may be accessed by the committee. Messages can also be sent to a specific subgroup (e.g. crag team). A further group will also be set up in the Members' Area to allow easier contact with Team Members not on email.

Personal climbing harnesses used on Team activities must be less than 5 years old and Team members will now be asked to sign to this effect. Please address all concerns to Mark Binney.

Base painting: Anyone interested in helping redecorate the base should contact Dennis Marrs.

Incidents reports: If you have an incident to report please speak to Steve Marrs ASAP to ensure all details are passed on.

Recent Call outs

22/11/05, Team on standby to search marshy area near Kelloe following reports by member of the public of calls for help. Team stood down after about 20 minutes.

2/11/05, Vulnerable 15 year old boy missing since previous night. Requested by police to search area near to his home. Missing boy returned home of own accord as the Team assembled.

20/10/05, Male had evaded the police as they tried to section him the previous night and had then disappeared. The Team started searching the most likely areas mainly around the river. The missing person turned up back at home shortly after searches commenced.

15/10/05, Multiple vehicle collision involving a minibus on the B6277 Mickleton road. 6 people treated by team Advanced Medic for minor injuries.

08/10/05, A family with two young children had got stuck in their 4x4 on a minor track and did not know their location. Pulling together all the information they could provide the Team Leader identified a probable location. This was confirmed when the vehicle was found by the police helicopter. A small group of Team Members went to the location in the Team's off road vehicle and assisted the family's vehicle back to the road.

07/10/05, Call from police to identify our suitability to assist with an urban rescue of two boys from a hole. Boys were rescued by alternative means before the Team was deployed.

04/10/05, The Team were called by the police for initial advice in respect of 60 year old male lost in Hamsterley forest. The Team leader consulted with Forest rangers and specific locations were identified. The Police helicopter located the missing person before the Team was deployed.

27/09/05, Police requested Team help in finding a 12 year old who had left school shortly after lunch. He had subsequently been seen on a cycle path. The boy was found by family members shortly after the Team deployed.

17/09/05, Requested by the police to assist with an incident where a male had fallen at High Force. The Team was called out because initial reports suggested difficult access. The casualty was evacuated as the Team arrived.

09/09/05, An 11 year old child was missing for several hours. Child found by police as Team assembled.

January Navigation Exercise 15/01/06

This exercise will take the form of a challenge walk. Team members will follow the route marked on the master map displayed at the start of the exercise. There are a series of questions to be answered about things you will see during your walk, some of these will be given to you before the walk, some afterwards. You will have 2 minutes deducted from your walk time for each correct answer.

The following rules are to be followed during the walk:

1. You will need to carry a pen and paper, Teesdale map, compass and rucksack weighing at least 8kg throughout the walk.
2. You will need to carry a radio, switched on, throughout the walk. (High band chnl 4, PMR Chnl 4.1). At ever hour and half hour listen for messages from Control. Your call sign will be Teesdale followed by your initials (eg. Teesdale AH). You will also need to carry your pager / mobile phone.
3. If the Team is called out during the exercise you will need to make your way to the nearest road, call Control and await pick up.
4. If for any reason you do not complete the walk you must report to Control and sign off.

Training: DBS and Adam will be running a trainer training day 1000-1600 on 29/01 at the Base. This is aimed at those who will be delivering the bulk of the training to the Team in 2006.

Wednesday Evenings: As from 11th January 2006 the format for Wednesday evening training sessions is going to change to the following:

1900 - 1930 Mini training sessions in areas that need to be revised regularly - knots, CPR, radios, etc. These are VOLUNTARY and will be repeated several times to allow all those who wish to partake to do so.

1930 - 1945 Notices and Admin

1945 - 2030 1st main teaching session of the evening

2030 - 2115 2nd main teaching session of the evening

2120 Finish

We will be attempting to make training practical and **everyone should make sure they bring outdoor clothing and footwear with them to every session.**

A lot of the training will be delivered by the Training Officer and Group Leaders. If you feel that you have skills to pass on then please contact the Training Officer - more help is always welcome.

11/01/06 Use of the online logbook & Team radios.

25/01/06 Recruitment evening.

8/02/06 Callout procedures, search management & equipment stowage.

22/02/06 Vehicle systems & PXR training.

08/03/06 Casualty care & Team Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

22/03/06 Base systems & IT.

Sunday Program

Time & Date	Activity	RV
09.00, 18/12/05	Search Techniques and tracking	High Force
09.00, 15/01/06	Individual navigation exercise	Kingsway, NY945255
09.00, 19/02/06	Hill day	High Force
09.00, 19/03/06	Search Exercise	High Force
09.00, 23/04/06	Orienteering / vehicles	Low Redford Car Park, Hamsterley NZ091312
09.00, 21/5/06	Crag training basic and advanced	High Force
09.00, 18/6/06	Water awareness	Kingsway NY945255
09.00, 16/7/06	Orienteering / Cas-Care	TBA ,Hamsterley
09.00,20/8/ 06	TBA	
09.00, 17/9/06	Comms / Cas-Care	Kingsway NY945255
14-15/10/06	NESRA exercise	TBA
18-19/11/06	Night exercise	Cow Green Car Park

Team members are reminded that they are expected to attend 6 exercises during the year. Anyone wishing to discuss a reduction in this requirement because of weekend or shift work, etc. must contact the Training Officer before 31/01/06 - No contact, No exemption. If your circumstances change during the year please speak to Adam ASAP.

Dogs: Skye has passed her stock and recruitment tests. Team members are reminded that only SARDA dogs may go out on Team business. Other dogs should be kept under close control to protect SARDA's reputation.

Ball: The Team is looking into organising a Ball at Raby Castle on 1st July 2006. Alan Hinks has agreed to give the after dinner speech. Anyone who can support the organisation of the ball should speak to Karen or Helen.