



# Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

## Newsletter DECEMBER 2006

**Seasons Greetings** 🍎 The Annual General Meeting held in November brought with it a few changes in committee members but more importantly a change in the teams' constitution and a new name!! To keep with the branding of Mountain Rescue (England and Wales) we have now incorporated 'Mountain' into our name (just in case you hadn't noticed!) The new committee elected is as follows:

**Team Leader** – David Bartles-Smith, **Deputy Team Leaders** – David Clark, Chris Roberts and Adam Hearn  
**Treasurer** – David Clark **Training Officer** – Adam Hearn  
**Group Leaders** - Pete Bell, Stephen Marrs, David Robinson, Richard Warne and Paul Renwick **Equipment Officer** – Simon Stewart **Press Officer** – Steve Owers  
**Members Reps** – Russell Warne, Paul Fell, Karen Fisher and Colin Radley **Associate Members Rep** – Helen Mortimer **Youth Team Leader** – Chris Roberts **Medical Officer** – Richard Warne **Transport Officer** – Anthony McAdam **Fundraising Officer** – Anthony Tubbs **SARDA Rep** – Des Toward **IT Officer** – John Little **Police Liaison** – Bob Danby.

Our thanks go to Steve Owers who has resigned his post as deputy team leader, due to work commitments, but we're not letting go of him yet, he continues in the role of Press Officer and is now looking for an assistant.

**Donations:** We have seen a busy quarter, with a number of fund-raising events taking place:

A Richardson, Assoc memb	Malerstang Event	£56
D Johnson, Assoc Memb	Great North Walk	£72
Pete Bell and 'Corus'	Abba Theme Night	£1510
Durham Uni Students	Three Peaks Challenge	£2082
3 members of Co. Deaf	Fundraising	£244
Associate member	Monthly Personal donation	£25
Anthony Tubbs	Great North Run	£381.50
Darlington W.I.	Talk by Team member	£110
Countryside Agency	Talk by Team member	£150
Bikewise event	First Aid Cover	£250
Hamsterley Vintage Collectors club	Vintage Tractor Rally	£958
Weardale Motor Club	Surprise Donation	£550
Middleton in Teesdale	Carnival Committee	£100
St Aidan's College JCR	Charity Committee Donation	£750

Without such donations, we simply could not exist. Even though Team members receive no payment, the Team still has to find funds to purchase the vast majority of its equipment. Last year this drained £25,000 from funds. People do not believe us when we say that no money comes from central government for our services. Mountain Rescue is a truly voluntary organisation, funded by the public's generosity, thank you to our donors, supporters and members.

**SARDA:** a number of excellent achievements on the dog front of late, starting with Des and Misty having their first 'real' find. Paul Renwick and Sky passed their 3 pre-assessment days which means they will go for their actual assessment in January – **Good luck to them!** Graeme White and Fern have passed the obedience and stock tests and are now flying through stage 1 of the training. **We are exceptionally lucky to have so many SARDA handlers on the team and their efforts are very much appreciated.**

**Reminder:** All team business must be recorded on the team planner BEFORE the event in order to be covered for insurance.

**Fundraising:** The Team needs a continual supply of fundraising activities to meet all the financial commitments and needs – anyone able to help should speak to any member of the committee or email [fundraising](#)

Collection tins are a great way for the Team to raise money – if you know a shop, pub or anywhere that might be able to have a collection tin please speak to Anthony Tubbs.

### Website

The Team would really benefit from an assistant webmaster. Technical knowledge would be an advantage but a healthy dose of enthusiasm will go a long way – any Team member interested in the role please speak to John Little: [webmaster](#)

### Equipment

Following numerous requests for help with storing kit, a new process is being introduced similar to the 'set-up' procedure for control. All team members will be expected to assist in packing kit away or bringing to the attention of the equipment officer any kit which needs, drying, repairing or replacing. Team members will not be able to sign off at exercise or call out until this is completed. Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

### 2007 Training Schedule

17/12/06	Fell Search Ex	Bollihope Fell
20-21/01/07	Night exercise with Seaking attending	Meldon hill
11/2/07	ECP Exercise	Howgills
18/3/07	Winter skills	Somewhere snowy!
15/4/07	Search ex inc canoes	Upper Weardale
20/5/07	Fell search	Waldridge
		Fell/Sacriston
		TBA
17/6/07	Water training	Consett
15/7/07	Urban Search with canoes	
19/8/07	No training	
16/9/07	Steep ground/crag training	Cronkly Fell
21/10/07	NESRA ex?	TBA
17-18/11/07	Night Exercise	TBA

**Wednesday evening training will continue on alternate Wednesdays beginning in the New year on 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm** Team members are reminded that they are expected to attend 5 exercises during the year and 5 Wednesday Night training sessions.

### Crag Training Schedule

20/01/07	Stretcher lower and hauling rescue lines/guide lines	Howns Gill Quarry
10/02/07	Stretcher lower and hauling rescue lines/guide lines casualty work	Pager call out
17/03/07	Intro new team members – basics revisited	Base/Mickleton Quarry
14/04/07	Stretcher lower and hauling rescue lines/guide lines	Holwick/Cronkley Scar
19/05/07	High line rescue	Mickleton Quarry
16/06/07	High line rescue	Howns Gill Quarry

**All crag training will start and finish at the base with all team members assisting in sorting out the equipment before finishing the exercise.**

### Certificates

Adam now has copies of NGB awards and driving licences held by about half the Team members. Can the remaining Team members, please make copies and leave it in his blue tray in the control room as soon as possible.



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**Roundup of Team activities:** The 2006 Christmas social will be on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> December at St. Aidan's College. 17-21 January are the SARDA assessments. 24 January is the open evening at the base for new recruits. 1 February meeting to discuss Year 1 of 5 year plan – 3 February Bishop Auckland Street Collection – help required! – associate members welcome to assist. 7 February Closing date for c-list applications. 17 February New c-list hill test. 1 March Committee Meeting – reports to be submitted by 21 February 2007.

### Post-exercise reports

A PXR for November is on the website. Team members are reminded that they all must remember that the use of their vehicle does not imply any Team liability and there is no extending vehicle insurance cover.

- Permission to use a vehicle must be sought by Control and it is accepted that this can understandably be declined.
- Drivers must adhere to Team driving standards and be aware of the risk to others amongst 'car park' congestion.
- Drivers must not use their vehicle unless agreed with Control.

**Five year plan** has been formulated and will require lots of work from committee members over the coming months to see it develop. Hopefully this will result in a smoother run organisation and more time being devoted to discussing issues which affect mountain rescue rather than day to day aspects of running the team. There is a meeting to discuss year one of the five year plan on Thurs 1 February 2007 – reports need to be submitted by 24 Jan.

### Good Deeds

Team members can now report any good deeds undertaken independently where they use skills taught in the team (typically casualty care) on the Team website. These will then be properly recorded in the Team log. One unfortunate note of caution however, we have recently found out that the MRC insurance does not cover Team Members doing casualty care except for callouts. The committee are looking into this problem as a matter of urgency.

**Free!** A number of metal lockers are available free to a good home but must be removed from the base by the end of January 2007.

### Recent Call outs

**13/09/06** Team Member assisted young female laying in the street semi conscious with blood from lacerations on her arms. County ambulance was called. Female taken to Darlington Hospital.

**06/10/06** Team Dog called to assist in search for missing elderly person following his car crashing into the river Swale. Passing Team member also assisted.

**09/10/06** The Team were called to assist in a search by Kirby Stephen Mountain Rescue Team for a forty year old man whose car had been found near some woodland. The coniferous woodland was extremely dense and searching proved very slow. Two Team SARDA dogs attended. Swale MRT and Penrith MRT also attended along with the Police helicopter from the North East. Nothing found

**15/10/06** 14.15 hrs Durham Police received 999 call from a Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition group, who reported

difficulties and one member suffering from hypothermia, in the Yorkshire dales area. Police contacted TWSRT Control on airwave and the Team Controller, on making mobile contact with the group, directed the Police helicopter, which was attending our ongoing search nearby, to the scene. Swaledale MRT then responded on the ground to this incident.

**26/11/06** 04.15 hrs request by Police to assist in search for elderly vulnerable male missing from Bishop Auckland General hospital. Search commencing when he was located safe and well. Police helicopter attended.

**29/11/06** Team members returning home from training discovered abandoned car at side of road between watershed and Bollilhope. Car had been spotted some hours earlier en-route to training. Inspection of the car revealed map of local area in back seat and approach shoes and socks in passenger foot well indicating someone had changed footwear. The Police informed. Approximately one mile down the road, two walkers were spotted in darkness by the Team members. When questioned revealed they were doing some navigation practice but had become a little waylaid and had forgotten to leave a note in their vehicle.

**29/11/06** Team members returning home from team training found a small van that had been driven off the road on to what the driver thought was solid ground but was in fact wet mud and had become stuck. The Team members used a Team members private 4x4 vehicle to drag the van back onto the road. The driver had been there some time before being rescued.

**Aid Memoirs** - An updated aid memoir has now been printed – please speak to Adam if you don't already have your copy.

### Presentation packs

Steve Marrs has created presentation packs which are located in the training room. The idea is a "pick up and go" bag containing everything a Team member needs to do a presentation on behalf of the Team to a range of audiences.

### MyTrips.org.uk

The Team have developed an online system (MyTrips.org.uk) to allow members of the public to upload and store details of any trips they are planning. Trips can take any form – walking, canoeing, fishing, climbing, the list is endless. **The system is due to go live on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007.** In the event that the person is reported missing the police and the Team can go on line to find any details which might help with the search.

### Newsletter

Items for future newsletters should be sent to the Team Secretary who will pass the details onto whoever is overseeing it. Contact: [secretary](mailto:secretary)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND  
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK  
IN 2006 - DBS**