

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Rescue Team Newsletter July 2006



Roundup of Team activities: The Stanhope Street collection raised just under £300 – a superb result from such a small place. A special thanks to the local shop keepers for making us feel so welcome, to the church for allowing us to park on “their patch”, and of course again to associate members David and Kath for their help on the day. Our next street collection is in **Barnard Castle on Saturday September 2nd** 10.00 – 16.00: A list, C list, Associate members, friends etc. are all very welcome, especially those in the Barnard Castle area. Please let John know (0191 377 2383 or webmaster@twsrc.org) if you are able to assist.

The 2006 Christmas social will be on Friday the **15th December** at St. Aidan’s College. The cost will be £10 per person. Families, associate members and old hands are most welcome to join the fun. Karen will start collecting monies in September.

The next committee meeting is on the 14th of September, reports and proposals to be submitted online by midnight Wednesday the 6th. A list members thinking of standing for a committee post at the AGM on 9th November (19.00 for 19.30 at the base, all welcome) may want to sit in.

Team name

Following the ballot of team members the committee are putting forward the new Team name “Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team”. The Team will also start using the strap line “Search and rescue throughout County Durham”. The new name will be formally adopted at an EGM which will precede the AGM on Thursday the 9th November. The updated constitution will also be adopted at the same EGM. The EGM will be at 19.00.

Constitution

The Team secretary is in the process of revising the constitution for submission to the charities commission and approval at the AGM in November. There are no major changes to the constitution, however, the committee have also agreed to implement a “one year plan” system, where each committee member will present a plan in December and be allowed the freedom to enact it over the course of the year, reporting back to committee as appropriate. There are also some changes to the training commitment: There will be a requirement to attend at least five Sunday training exercises a year and also at least five evening sessions a year.

Certificates

Adam has copies of NGB awards and driving licences held by about a quarter of 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.

LEADER

The LEADER fund is now closed. Special thanks to Chris Roberts and Chris Scott for all their help on the project. The LEADER project allowed £15,000 of team funds to buy £50,000 of equipment.

Awards

The Team have received a £2000 Innovation Award from AOL for a new venture shortly to be added to our website specifically aimed at users of the outdoors. Full details to follow shortly - or keep an eye on the Team website – and hopefully you will also spot the launch in the press. Some of this funding will be spent on buying a new laptop for the Team so please be nice to it when it arrives in the next few weeks.

Post-exercise reports for the May and June exercises are now available on the website – all active team members are encouraged to spend a few minutes having a look after each exercise. In particular, note that we have checked that the Bell stretcher just fits over Wynch Bridge. The Evening exercise in June emphasised the importance of making sure the vehicle drivers know what equipment is taken off the vehicle and that control must listen to the information from groups on the ground.

Fundraising

The Sea and Mud Cycle Challenge was completed by 5 cyclists on the 16th -18th June. The challenge involved cycling from Tyne Mouth to Whitehaven via Kielder Forest. The event will be re run on a larger scale in 2007. The total collected will be in the next Newsletter. Well done to everyone involved.

The Durham University Charity Kommittee Three Peaks Challenge on the 7th – 8th June was a huge success 23 (out of 24) walkers topped all 3 summits within 24 hours. The event has already raised over £1000 and there is more to come. A big thank you to: James Gordon for organising the event, the walkers and the drivers. Good luck with getting that sponsor money in!

The Team would also like to thank Peter Elliot for raising another £200 for the Team – Thanks again Peter.

Team key rings are now available for £1 each. Please contact John Little if you would like to purchase one (or more).

An “Awards For All” grant has already been put together on behalf of the Youth Team to fund developing mountain, hill-walking and climbing skills, introduce winter skills, water activity and training support. Plans are also underway to apply for a big lottery grant to support volunteering in the Team.

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@twsrc.org.

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 John Little.

Trip to Wales

Stephen Marrs and Paul Renwick are organising an informal trip to Wales to stay at Pen Ceunant Uchaf near Llanberris. The trip is open to everyone (Team and supporters) and will go down on the Thursday evening returning on the Sunday with plenty of adventures in between (dates to be confirmed). The accommodation has space for 22 on Alpine mattresses (bring a sleeping bag). Places will be allocated first come first served – please contact stevemarrs@twsrc.org to reserve a place.

Recent Call outs

Only the one callout in the past two months:

15/5/06 12.20 The Team were called to assist Penrith Mountain Rescue Team in a search of the High Pennines for a lost male walker. The Team were just starting their search of the ground above Cow Green Reservoir, along with two SARDA dogs, when the missing walker was located by RAF SeaKing Helicopter at High Cup Nick. Kirkby Stephen MRT were also called out.

Website

The Team website continues to develop. One of the recently added features estimates the mileage driven by Team members. A conservative estimate for mileage driven to attend training and callouts in May and June comes in at a massive 7500 miles – and all paid for by TWSRT volunteers.

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.

Date	Event	RV
12/07/06, 19.30	Cas care - Surveys / Anaphylaxis	Base
16/07/06, 09.00	Orienteering / Casualty Care at Hamsterley	Grove Car Park
19/07/06, 19.00	Crag Team Hi-line rigging - High Force	High Force
26/07/06, 19.30	Cas Care - Extremes of temp / Head & spinal Injury	Base
09/08/06, 19.00	Canoeing fun intro session suitable for all	Kingsway Centre NY945255
20/08/06, 09.00	TBA	TBA
23/08/06, 19.00	Canoeing fun intro session suitable for all	Kingsway Centre NY945255
02/9/06	Street collection	B.Castle
06/09/06, 19.30	Cas Care - Drugs / Chest Injury	Base
13/09/06, 19.00	Crag Team - stretcher hauling	TBA
17/09/06, 09.00	Cas Care / Comms exercise - study the voice procedure document	Base
20/09/06, 19.30	Cas Care - Cardiac Conditions (defib?) / Diabetes / asthma	Base
27/09/06, 19.00	Crag Team - general climbing	TBA

Team members are reminded that for the current year 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 - No contact, No exemption.

Base

The alarm codes will change on the 12th July. Please see Adam if you have any problems with the alarm or do not get issued with a new code (assuming you are a key holder). Keys will only be issued by, and returned to, Adam with a record maintained via the team website.

Youth Team

An Icelandic Mountain Rescue Youth Team are visiting the TWSRT Youth Team for a week towards the end of July. They will be attending the Base for an open evening on the 22nd and there will be a farewell BBQ on the 29th July at the Kingsway Centre – please speak to Chris Roberts if you want more information. The Youth Team are also looking to recruit six new members in the autumn – potential recruits should contact Chris Roberts.

NESRA training weekend

TWSRT are hosting the NESRA training weekend in October. The Team will subsidise the training costs but Team members will have to pay for meals and accommodation. The format will be sociable on Friday and Saturday evenings with team challenges and training workshops during the day.

Five year plan

The committee has agreed to create a five year plan covering all aspects of the team. Initial suggestions are welcome before the September exercise, when the committee will meet to finalise the plan. Committee members can add their suggestions to the outline document in the Member's Area of the Team website. Lunch will be provided for all Team members attending the exercise.

PageOne Backup

A back up callout tree has now been developed. Details will be passed on to Team members shortly. The resulting structure is based around accessibility to land lines and as a result the structure differs from that usually seen in the Team. A number of Team members will be responsible for telephoning three other Team members and potentially other Team members below them in the Tree if required. The alternative of asking one Team member to contact all Team members remains an option.

Crag Training

The crag team has been undergoing some significant reforms. The Crag Team Advisor observed an exercise and has been reviewing the crag team standard operating procedures. As a result the crag team has taken a step backwards to ensure the basics are right. The committee has also allocated some of the money raised by the Durham University Three Peaks to buy helmets and harnesses for the Crag Team. This will ensure that critical kit is under five years old and a log is kept of its use.

Cas Care

The Team now has three first responders (Rich W, Adam H and Colin B). They are equipped with defibrillators which they can use if required on the Team's behalf.

The Team will be running another Cas Care training course in the run up to the Cas Care exam (first weekend in December). The plan is that each aspect is covered twice so Team members won't be completely thwarted by missing a single evening. The Training dates are as follows:

Wed 12/07 Surveys / Anaphylaxis

Wed 26/07 Extremes of temp / Head & spinal Injury

Wed 06/09 Drugs / Chest Injury

Wed 20/09 Cardiac Conditions / Diabetes / asthma

Wed 04/10 Diabetes / asthma / Cardiac conditions

Wed 18/10 Chest Injury / Drugs

Wed 01/11 Head & spinal Injury / Extremes of Temp

Wed 15/11 Anaphylaxis / surveys