

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Rescue Team Newsletter May 2006



Roundup of Team activities: The Darlington Street collection raised just over £600. Much better than the last collection in Darlington which raising about £150! Thank you to everyone who supported us. Our next street collection is in **Stanhope on Saturday June 24th** 10.00 – 16.00 – A list, C list, Associate members, friends etc. are all very welcome - Please let John know 0191 377 2383 or webmaster@twstrt.org if you are able to assist. Collections resume after the summer in **Barnard Castle on 2nd September.**

The 2006 Christmas social will be on Friday the **15th December** at St Aidan's College. The cost will be £10 a person and families, associate members and old hands are most welcome to join the fun. More details later in the year.

The Team are now actively looking for a Team supporter to take on regular cleaning activities at the base. If you think you can help please speak to a committee member ASAP.

Post-exercise reports for the March and April exercises are now available on the website – all active team members are encouraged to spend a few minutes having a look after each exercise.

Membership

The role of equipment officer has become vacant – if any A list member feels able to help with this role a full job specification is available on the Team website or they should speak to Adam. Mark will remain a group leader and we thank Mark for his efforts since November.

The Team will be booking (and paying for) 4 places at the MRC conference in Lancaster in September – if anyone would like to go please speak to the Team Leader.

Certificates: Adam will now be collecting copies of any NGB awards held by team members. He would also like copies of Team members driving licences if possible.

Recruitment

The 2006 recruitment resulted in 7 new members of the C list: William Barker, Jeff Douthwaite, Jonathan Plautus, Mark Davis, Craig Stephenson, Tony Forster, Iain Hallam and Iain Goff - welcome.

It is recommended that Team members print off an up to date callout list to include these new members. A paper copy will be provided for those not on email.

Constitution: Thank you to everyone for their comments on the draft changes to the constitution. A final revision will be produced at the July committee meeting. A survey is being conducted amongst the A list to try and decide whether to change the Team name and if so, what to - conclusions in the July newsletter. All Team members are reminded that all A and C list members can attend committee meetings – those not on the committee will be asked to take a back seat.

Base: The alarm codes in use at the base will shortly be changed. Please see Adam if you have any problems with the alarm.

Equipment: The Team are hoping to be able to get a mobile radio repeater up and running shortly pending some funding (fingers crossed). Thanks also to Craig Stephenson for the Land Rover Diff Guard – and for his help with the vehicle.

Team clothing: A list members should speak to Graeme if they want to order some Team clothing.

Recent Call outs

4/3/06 Search for missing female in the coastal area near Peterlee. Coastguard search teams and police helicopter also involved. Two SARDA dogs and search teams deployed. The weather was very cold. The search stood down after 4 hours with nothing found. Missing woman turned up safe outside of search area early the following morning.

10/3/06 18.30 hrs Police request to search for 14 year old vulnerable girl missing since before dark, in Easington area. Search stood down at 20.30 hrs when she turned up safe well outside search area. 16 Team members attended along with 1 SARDA dog.

14/3/06 02.00 hrs Request by Police to assist in search for despondent male missing from home in Darlington - one Team SARDA dog and support group deployed in initial response. Missing person returned home safe as search about to start.

19/3/06 Team called to assist with the evacuation of a female walker. The walker had a suspected leg fracture and was in a wooded ravine near Westgate in Weardale. Stanhope fire crew also attended and the casualty was evacuated to a waiting Air Ambulance.

23/3/06 05.00 hrs Team called to Cumbria to assist in search for missing 74 year old male in area at foot of Pennine fells. Search lead by Kirby Stephen SMRT and Penrith MRT. Keswick MRT, Kendal MRT, Patterdale MRT, RAF Leeming MRT and Moffat MRT also attended along with SARDA Lakes and RAF Seaking. Search stood down at 15.30 hrs. **25/3/06** Search continued. Team searched area around High Cup Nick. 17 other MRT's and 120 personnel involved, in addition to 3 RAF Seakings. Search controlled by Penrith MRT and Kirby Stephen SMRT. The missing mans body was found some time later by a fell walker outside the search area.

1/4/06 20.25 hrs request by Police to search for a 59 year old male missing from home. Believed to be despondent. Mobile phone call traced to area of open ground near Shildon - search commencing when he was found on a road and taken to hospital. 1 Team SARDA dog also attended.

2/4/06 12.50 Team called by the Police to person taken ill at High Force waterfall. Initial on scene reports indicated need for mountain rescue assistance. Team stood down en route, when Air ambulance was able to evacuate casualty.

9/4/06 13.30 hrs Request by Police to attend Cow Green reservoir, following report of a male with arm injuries following a fall. Weather was cold with frequent snow showers. Incident had taken place on Cauldron Snout and the injured man was assisted by passing walkers. Team en route, along with ambulance and Air ambulance. Casualty evacuated by helicopter - assisted by one Team member.

10/4/06 A teenage girl went missing from her home in Newton Aycliffe at 19.00 on Sunday 9th April. The Team were called mid afternoon the following day and searched the open and scrub land surrounding and near the missing girls home. In addition to police dogs the Team deployed three SARDA dogs. Nothing was found - Team stood down to await further developments. Girl found safe outside search area the following day.

23/4/06 14.00 hrs Team on exercise when called by the Police to assist at High Force waterfall following reports of a person with a broken leg. Ambulance and Air ambulance also attending. Team stood down en route as person evacuated by Ambulance.

9/5/06 Request by Police to search for missing 35 year old male near Peterlee. Search of a local Dene, comprising steep, wooded and difficult terrain. Two Team SARDA dogs also attended along with support from Police helicopter. Nothing found and search stood down at 21.30 hrs.

Trailer: The Team have now sourced a replacement trailer. The trailer is an ex RAF/Military Sankey Trailer. The history of these trailers goes back a long way with the armed forces. They were specifically designed for use in hard driving terrain and to be pulled by Land Rovers. The plan is that the trailer (when it has had some renovation) will park in a position that allows the driver of the Land Rover to hitch up the trailer without the need of further assistance. There are three support legs which will be placed in a position to keep the towing eye level with the jaws on the back of the Land Rover, then all you do is reverse up to it. No hauling the trailer around needed. The wheels are Land Rover sized and therefore the spare from our Land Rover can be used in the event of a flat tyre.

The purpose of this trailer will be for all the gear that we have to have readily available but only use occasionally eg. caving gear, stakes, etc. There will be discussion with specific officers in the Team regarding this process of change.

However, in the mean time the trailer needs a little work to make it presentable, so if anyone is keen to help let Anthony the Transport Officer know. Help is especially needed for wiring, rubbing down and welding, so if any of you are qualified please let Anthony know (see web for details)

Fundraising

After raising £67 for the Team in 2000 Anne Richardson is doing another sponsored walk on the 4th of June for the Team. The walk is the 24th Mallerstang Horseshoe and the 9 Standards Half Yomp. If anyone else is interested in joining Anne I can put you in contact (john.little@twsrc.org or Tel: 0191 377 2383).

The Sea and Mud Cycle Challenge will be on the 16th -18th June. The challenge will involve cycling from Tyne Mouth to Whitehaven via Kielder Forest. Please contact stevemarrs@twsrc.org if you want to find out more. Final details will also be available on the Team website shortly.

The Team still has supporters pin badges for sale –the sooner we can sell the next 20 the sooner we break even on the venture! Special mention must for to Sgt. Bob Danby who having sold 10 badges around the force has come back to sell another 10 – Thanks!

Durham University Charity Kommittee are organising a 24 hour Three Peaks Challenge on the 7th – 8th June – the Team wish them the very best of luck for the event.

The Team needs a continual supply of fundraising activities to meet all the financial commitments and desires – 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.

The printer cartridge recycling has managed to bring in £135 – thanks to everyone for their help – and keep them coming.

A local vintage tractor group are also planning to raise funds for the Team with a tractor run – so if you catch up with a road full of tractors in the dales one summer afternoon please support them.

A special mention is due to Anthony McAdam and Chris Scott for managing to negotiate a saving of £1000 on our insurance bill. The money saved has been put aside to ensure the long term future of the Team vehicles. Chris has however had to get a new chequebook cover - the hinge on the old one was broken showing how many times it had been opened it to write cheques!

IT: In the next few weeks it will become possible to apply for associate membership of the Team online – new associate members will still have to post in a cheque but give us time. The website will also shortly begin supporting a list of policy decisions taken by committee – hopefully helping everyone keep track of decisions made. There is also a page on the website detailing discounts available to Team members.

Date	Event	RV
17/05/06, 19.30	Driver safety talk from Police	Base
21/05/06, 09.00	Crag work for all	High Force
24/05/06, 19.00	Crag Team Whinmore End on Middleton to Brough road	At crag
31/05/06, 19.30	East Cumbria Panel search / Cas Care	Base
07/06/06, 19.00	Crag Team - shaft rescue at Moking pot	High Force
14/06/06, 19.00	Caving trip - Moking Hurth and Pot, bring wellies, helmet and headtorch. You will get wet and muddy.	High Force
18/06/06, 09.00	Water awareness - swimming in the Tees	Kingsway Centre, NY 945 255
21/06/06, 19.00	Crag Team	Holwick Scar
28/06/06, 19.30	PXR points and logbooks / Equipment stowage	Base
05/07/06, 19.00	Crag Team Hi-line rigging - Stanhope Quarry	Stanhope - Durham Dales Centre
12/07/06, 19.30	Cas care starts towards December exam	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	Base
09/08/06, 19.00	Canoeing fun intro session suitable for all	Kingsway Centre NY945255
20/08/06, 09.00	Water exercise, to be decided by those likely to attend	TBA
23/08/06, 19.00	Canoeing fun intro session suitable for all	Kingsway Centre NY945255
06/09/06, 19.30	Cas Care	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	Base
27/09/06, 19.00	Crag Team - general climbing	TBA

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 - No contact, No exemption.