

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Rescue Team Newsletter September 2006



Martin Huitson has left TWSRT after seven years with the Team. Martin has contributed a great deal to the Team in the past, particularly during the building of our current vehicles, and he is happy to continue to assist us with casualty care training in the future. Martin has also donated two high band VHF vehicle sets which will allow us to proceed with the portable repeater project.

Donations: It's been a good couple of months for donations – lets keep them coming! The Team have received a donation of £100 for providing safety cover for the swimmers during a recent Triathlon on Derwent water – thanks to the canoe team. Darlington Council have also made a donation to the Team after we provided safety cover (and first aid) during the Great North Walk. We would also like to thank the person who reported three crag-fast sheep, which were then rescued by the Team, for their donation of £50. Bishop Auckland Round Table have donated £750 raised at their recent beer festival – this will pay for a “new” radio repeater and trailer for the Team. A special thanks to Middleton Guides who raised £305 for the Team through a table top sale and Charity Auction. The money is going to be spent on a special training dummy. Money is still coming in from the Team's sponsored cycle ride – thanks to everyone who cycled and the supporters. Thanks also to Roseberry College and Teesdale Trefoil Guild who have made us their charity of the year. Also a special thank you as ever to the Associate Members, donors and supporters who help us fill our collection boxes.

The vintage Tractor rally which started at The Malt Shovel in Butterknowle raised £961 for the team – a big thank you to all involved – especially Paul Jenkins and Mark Davis for driving the Team Land Rover to support the event. The Vintage Tractor Club have also organised a presentation to the Team and fundraising BBQ.

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@twsrc.org).

Constitution

The revised constitution has been submitted to the charities commission and will go for approval at the AGM in November.

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@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.

Equipment

Team members are asked to help where possible with the putting away of kit after callouts and exercises. This is especially an issue when kit gets wet, has to be dried and then put away. During debriefs the kit officer will be seeking assistance with this work and would like to thank those who have helped him in the past.

Roundup of Team activities: The Barnard Castle Street collection raised £427.99 – a superb result considering how wet it was. A special thanks to all the Associate Members for their help on the day. Our next street collection is in **Durham** on **Saturday December 9th** 10.00 – 16.00: A list, C list, Associate Members, friends etc. are all very welcome, especially those in the Durham 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 is collecting the money now.

The next full committee meeting is on the 7th of December, reports and proposals to be submitted online by midnight Wednesday the 29th November. There will also be a brief committee meeting after the AGM. Committee members will be presenting a one year plans for their positions in December.

All committee positions are up for election at the AGM. Steve Owers and Paul Renwick are not restanding for the positions of Deputy Team Leader and Associate Members' Rep respectively – a special thanks to them for their hard work over the past few years. There will also be a requirement for some fresh Group Leaders to help the Training Officer. A-list members thinking of standing for a committee post at the AGM on 9th November need to be proposed and seconded – please speak to the Team Leader.

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.

Post-exercise reports

A PXR for July is on the website. In particular Team members are reminded the stretcher calls are: Prepare to lift, Lift, Prepare to lower, Lower.

NESRA training weekend

TWSRT are hosting the NESRA training weekend in October at Kingsway (thanks again Adam). The Team will cover the training costs but Team members will have to pay for meals and accommodation.

Saturday: Breakfast 9.00-10.00, team challenges 10.00 – 17.00, 17.00 – 18.30 Dinner, 18.30 Evening refreshments.

Sunday: Breakfast 9.00-10.00, Workshops 10.00 – 14.00,

Five year plan

Many Team members contributed to the five year plan 'online survey'. At the 5 year planning meeting on the 17th of September many issues were discussed and a document is now going to be put together over the next couple of weeks. While some specific issues were identified needing urgent attention the plan really is about the bigger picture. The completed Five Year Plan will include actions and dates for reviewing to ensure things are followed through. All in all, there is going to be plenty of extra work (as ever) and the support of all Team members will be essential to ensure successful completion. Initial feedback should be on the website in about a month with further details in the next newsletter. Thanks to Emily for all her assistance and helping the committee see the bigger picture.

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.

Recent Call outs

12/7/06 Standby to assist North Of Tyne Search and Rescue Team/Northumberland National Parks Search and Rescue Team in relation to search for missing male. Team stood down at 16.00 hrs - not required. Missing person located in hospital.

22/7/06 A man was reported missing to Durham Police on Friday evening (21st July). The police were concerned for his safety following a phone message sent to one of his friends. They contacted Teesdale & Weardale Search & Rescue Team on Saturday morning who concentrated the search on Beamish Woods to the north east of Beamish Museum. Thirty members of three mountain rescue teams (North or Tyne Search and Rescue Team and Northumberland National parks Search and Rescue Team) spent six hours on Saturday afternoon (22nd July 2006) searching dense woodland for the 33 year old man who had gone missing from West Pelton near Chester-le-Street. Three SARDA dogs were also deployed. Following a six hour search where no trace of the young man was found the search was called off.

23/7/06 Team present at Great North Walk near Darlington. Assistance given to 8 casualties.

24/7/06 19.30hrs Call out by Police to search for missing female in Hamsterley Forest area. The Police helicopter was also involved in search. Missing woman found safe as Team assembled.

30/7/06 Call out to one of our more unusual rescues. Three sheep had been reported by a dog walker stuck on a ledge 10metres up a quarry face in Bollilhope Quarry, near Frosterley. The sheep had been on the ledge since at least Saturday morning. Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service attended on Saturday evening and after consulting with the farmer and the RSPCA it was decided to leave the sheep overnight to see if they could get down themselves. The sheep were still on the ledge on Sunday morning so it was decided to call out the Search & Rescue Team later in the day to recover the sheep. When the Team arrived two of the sheep had disappeared, we can only assume they managed to get down safely themselves. Unfortunately a lamb did not have the same courage so the Team needed to recover it. Two team members were lowered to the ledge and after some difficulty managed to catch the lamb, secure it to a harness and then the rescuer and the lamb were lowered to the ground. After a quick check the lamb seemed none the worse for wear and wandered off. The Team even got a round of applause from the sizable crowd who had gathered to watch!

1/8/06 Team called to Lanehead Quarry, Stanhope to rescue an injured female who had fallen down into the quarry and come to rest on a ledge. A police Helicopter rescued the injured female as the Team assembled.

9/8/06 The Team were called out to a man and child stuck above High Force Waterfall in Teesdale. The pair were safely rescued by the fire service as the Team assembled.

11/8/06 Vulnerable male adult missing from home for 8 hours in the Newton Aycliffe area. Initial search by SARDA dog and 2 team members. Male returned home.

13/8/06 Callout following a request from Penrith MRT to assist in a major search in the Brampton area of Cumbria for a missing 75 year old and his dog. We joined Teams from the Lake

District, Scotland, Dales, Northumberland and RAF Leeming in the search. Missing person found the following day after dog alerted villagers. Only minor injuries. Found outside search area.

24/8/06 Received call from police at 17.20hrs to search for missing female on Cockfield Fell. Search of Fell by Team members, Police and Police Helicopter. Missing female found safe and well by Team Search Dog (Misty).

25/8/06 16.30 hrs - Information from Police - request for help received after a 4 year old black labrador 'Sam' fell down a 35 foot deep mine shaft whilst out on a grouse shoot on Catterick Moss near Frosterley. 11 Team members attended and 'Sam' was safely recovered up the vertical shaft to the surface. 'Sam' was unhurt from his ordeal.

9/9/06 14.30 hrs request by Police to assist in search for missing vulnerable child in Stanley area. Team and 3 SARDA dogs en route when stood down as girl turned up safe

Future Training

Date & Time	Event	RV
20/09/06 - 19.30	Cas care trg	Base
27/09/06 - 19.00	Crag Team trg	TBA
04/10/06 - 19.30	Cas care trg	Base
11/10/06 - 19.00	Crag Team trg	TBA
14-15/10/06 - 9.00	NESRA Exercise weekend	Kingsway
18/10/06 - 19.30	Cas care trg	Base
25/10/06 - 19.00	Crag Team trg	TBA
01/11/06 - 19.30	Cas care trg	Base
08/11/06 - 19.00	Crag Team trg	TBA
15/11/06 - 19.30	Cas care trg	Base
18-19/11/06 - 16.00	Overnight exercise	Cow Green
22/11/06 - 19.00	Cas care trg	TBA
24-26/11/06 - 19.00	Cas care practical trg	Kingsway
29/11/06 - 19.30	Cas care revision	Base
02/12/06 - 9.00	Cas care exam	Swaledale
06/12/06 - 19.00	Crag Team trg	TBA
13/12/06 - 19.30	Voice procedure	Base
17/12/06 - 9.00	Exercise Bollilhope	NZ005348
10/01/07 - 19.30	Voice procedure	Base

Team members are reminded that they are expected to attend 6 exercises during the year. A list is available in the base so Team members can check their attendances.

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 is in the process of producing a pair of presentation packs for the Team. 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 in the next couple of months. 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.