



THE TRACKER

Monthly Newsletter of the Inland Empire Search and Rescue Council

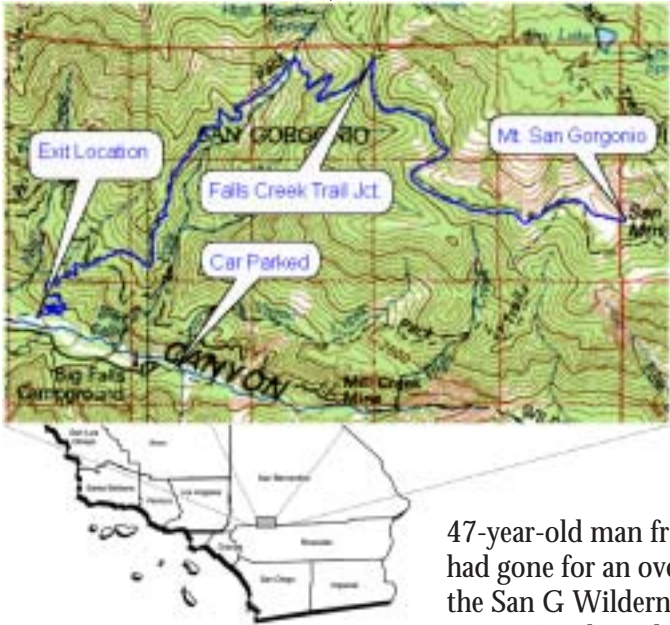
January 2005

Volume 14 Number 1

Snow Storm Covers Trail

Shannon Kovich, San Gorgonio SAR & Valley of the Falls SAR

On 112104 at 2300 hrs, the San Gorgonio and Valley of the Falls Search and Rescue Teams were soon called out to another SAR incident on the same day that they had finished the Hornbarger Rescue in the East Flats area. The unexpected winter storm had caught another hiker off guard while in the San Gorgonio Wilderness.



Richard Ruzzamenti, a

47-year-old man from Riverside, had gone for an overnight hike in the San G Wilderness via the Vivian Creek Trail in the Community of Forest Falls. Ruzzamenti had started the hike with a friend, but the friend departed from Ruzzamenti about 30 minutes prior to the High Creek Camp area. When Ruzzamenti did not return home on 112104 at 1700 hrs as planned, his wife, Lori Ruzzamenti, contacted the Riverside Police to report her husband missing. The Riverside Police Department reported the incident to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in Yucaipa.

The victim's vehicle was located in the parking lot of the Vivian Creek Trailhead. The snowstorm had com-

pletely covered it with fresh new snow. Snow had to be shoveled from the vehicle to identify its California plates.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department assisted in the search efforts by providing the SAR team members a ride to the trailhead in their snowcat. The Central SAR team also responded to assist the Yucaipa teams with the search. Teams were deployed on the Vivian Creek Trail to make their way to the High Creek Camp area. Air support was real limited due to the heavy cloud cover and sporadic snowfall. 40 king was able to only check the trail to the Half Way Camp area of the trail.

The subject walked out of the wilderness via the Falls Creek Trail. He returned to his vehicle and then arrived at the Sheriff's Office to report in. It was later found that Ruzzamenti had made it to the Summit of San G (11,500 ft) and then was forced to spend the night on the summit. When we woke the next morning, he was covered with 3 feet of new snow, covering his tracks. Ruzzamenti then started down the trail, which was covered and unidentifiable. He ended up on the San Bernardino Peak Divide Trail heading towards Jepson Peak, Little Charlton Peak, then to Charlton Peak. He then was forced to spend another night in the snow. The next day Ruzzamenti started down the nearest canyon, which end up being the old Falls Creek Trail. He then showed up in the community of Forest Falls. Ruzzamenti stated that at times he had to work his way

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SAR "Finds"

John Amrhein, Volunteer Forces

The beginnings of the idea for this column came a few days ago while I was sitting in "the reading room" going through my new Cabela's Catalogue. In it they had an affordable Blaze Orange 4-in-1 parka. I remember thinking this would fit the needs of many SAR members. I filed it away in my memory for the next person who asked my advice on where to find SAR gear. A couple of days later someone e-mailed me a great web site that will easily convert LAT/LONG to UTM. I forwarded it off to my SAR friends but wished I could share it with the larger SAR community. I'm sure all of you have run across interesting SAR related web sites, good deals, new equipment that you would like to share with the rest of us—so here's your chance. In each issue of the Tracker I will share with you some interesting "SAR finds" that I've found and that you have sent me. This column will only succeed with your input, so please send your "finds" to me at: jamrhein@sbcscd.org. As an incentive to send me "finds" you will receive NOTHING but a thank you and your name in print.

Because they inspired the idea for the column I'll start with the two "finds" mentioned above. For those of you who have not found Cabela's yet it is a good source for Blaze Orange outdoor clothing. They bill themselves as "The World's Foremost Outfitter". Most of their equipment is geared towards hunters, fishermen and campers but much of it could be used

by SAR personnel. Their prices are fair and some good deals can be found but they do not offer a SAR discount. The 4-in-1 Parka I found is in their Classic Weather-BLOCK Blaze Insulated Series and is under 100 bucks. It's probably not suited for the technical teams but should be adequate for Command Post, Mounted/ATV, COMM, etc. personnel. Check it out at: www.cabelas.com. It's catalogue #ME-93-0528. Be sure to get on their catalogue list while there.

The next "find" was sent to me by Dennis Beene our State OES Region VI Law Enforcement Coordinator. It is a web site that will in their own words do the following: "Translate coordinates (WGS-84, NAD-83, and NAD-27) to and from Latitude/Longitude and UTM. Also, if the location is within the conterminous 48 states, you'll get the converted coordinates for the other map datums." The site can be found at: www.jeep.com/details/coord/. This site also has some good off-roading information for California.

An item appearing in this column does not constitute an endorsement by the SBCSD, the IESC, or the Staff of the Tracker. The content of this column is meant to be informational only and the reader should verify all claims, accuracy etc. for themselves.

Haskell Search

Shannon Kovich, San Gorgonio SAR & Valley of the Falls SAR

On 111904, at about 1700 hrs The San Gorgonio and Valley of the Falls Search and Rescue Teams were called to assist a 40 yr old hiker from Seattle Washington who was hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail with his 65 yr old Father Peter Haskell. Ben Haskell reported that he and his father had started on the PCT near Palm Springs four days prior and that they were working their way to the Coon Creek Cabins located in the San Gorgonio Wilderness, when he and his father had become separated while hiking the last portion of the trail near Coon Creek Cabin.

“...he and his father had started on the PCT ... four days prior...”

Ben Haskell stated that he had backtracked trying to search for his father for several hours before he decided to contact Law Enforcement. Ben Haskell stated that his father had a hard time hiking the trail, and suffered from Parkinson's disease and that he sometimes

does not have the use of his hands, especially when it is cold. Ben was also concerned that his father, even though he has the right equipment, he would not be able to use it because of his limitations.

Members of the San Gorgonio and Valley of the Falls SAR Teams were deployed onto the trail working from Coon Creek towards Mission Springs Camp. The subject was located about 0200 hrs the morning of 112004, near the Fish Creek Rd on the PCT. The subject was able to get out his sleeping bag and was found on the trail in his bag. Peter Haskell was disoriented and extremely tired.

The father and son were soon reunited and transported to the community of Angelus Oaks to spend the rest of the night.




Black Ice on Hwy 38

Shannon Kovich, San Gorgonio SAR & Valley of the Falls SAR

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Aviation assisted on a vehicle over the side on State Hwy 38 south of the Community of Angelus Oaks. On 123004 around 0730 hrs, Christopher Raymer from San Luis Obispo was traveling with his son on State Hwy 38 on their way to the Big Bear area. When they caught a piece of black ice on the hwy. The black ice forced Raymer to over correct and go into a spin. Raymer's vehicle, a white 1991 Jeep CJ-5, spun on the hwy and went over the side of the road. The vehicle traveled end over end 400 feet to the bottom of the canyon. Raymer was ejected

from the vehicle, his son remained seat belted in the vehicle when it came to a rest.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department from Camp Angelus and Forest Falls, along with Sheriff's Aviation evacuated the two patients out to the Loma Linda Medical Center. Raymer was listed in critical, and his son in moderate condition.

The Sheriff's Aviation Division did a wonderful job on getting the victims out of the steep canyon. Sgt. Clancy, Pilot, did a wonderful job with getting the aircraft into a tight canyon to effect the rescue. 



Calendar

For information or to submit an event, contact the editor at editor@thetracker.info. Appearance of items in this section does not necessarily imply endorsement by the SAR Council or the County of San Bernardino. Call if you have any questions about a particular listing. To save space, persons to contact and numbers for multiple listings of *Department-approved training providers* are consolidated in one place at the bottom of this page.

2005

January

Jan 19—IESARC Meeting

19:00 in the main conference room at SBSB HQ.

Jan 22-23—BMC Field Practical

Camp Laurel Pines. Visit www.thetracker.info/BMC for more information

February

Feb 5-6—BMC Field Practical

Camp Laurel Pines. Visit www.thetracker.info/BMC for more information.

Feb 19—West Valley SAR Training

Snow Training. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net)

March

Mar 5-6 & 19-20—BSAR

Contact VFU for more information.

Mar 12-13—BMC Field Practical

Cancelled

Mar 16—IESARC Meeting

19:00 in the main conference room at SBSB HQ.

April

Apr 16—Personal Vertical Skills Check-off

Hosted by West Valley SAR. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net) for information.

May

May 14-15—West Valley SAR Training

Rope Training. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net) for information.

May 18—IESARC Meeting

19:00 in the main conference room at SBSB HQ.

June

Jun 4—West Valley SAR Training

Night ELT exercise. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net) for more information.

July

Jul 16—West Valley SAR Training

Rope rescue training. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net) for more information.

Jul 20—IESARC Meeting

19:00 in the main conference room at SBSB HQ.

August

Aug 20—West Valley SAR Training

Rope rescue training. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net) for more information.

September

Sep 17—West Valley SAR Training

Search exercise. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net) for more information.

Sep 21—IESARC Meeting

19:00 in the main conference room at SBSB HQ.

October

Oct 14-16—West Valley SAR Training

Map & Compass training. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net) for more information.

Oct 15—Personal Vertical Skills Check-off

Hosted by the Cave Rescue Team. Sheriff's Aviation in Rialto. Contact Mark Kinsey (mkinsey@caverescue.net) for more information.

November

Nov 19—West Valley SAR Training

Night scenario. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net) for more information.

December

*Course / Provider

BSAR / Vol Forces
CMC Rescue School
On Rope1
Rigging For Rescue
Ropes That Rescue
TRBC, PVSC, NCRC / Vol Forces
Mountaineering / Vol Forces
West Valley SAR Training

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www.cmcrescue.com
www.onrope1.com
www.riggingforrescue.com
www.ropesthatrescue.com/
ww26sar5@aol.com
flhester@aol.com
boobali@gte.net

Snow Strom

through chest high snow to keep heading down hill.

Ruzzamenti appeared tired and hungry, he was later released to return home. Thank you to the additional teams who came over to assist the Yucaipa Station.

Classifieds

Contact the Editor to place or remove any item.



SBSD Commuter cups with star and motto. \$16. Features generous 16 oz. capacity, stainless steel construction, double-walled insulation and fits virtually all auto cup or mug holders.



SBSD Search and Rescue decals. \$5. The decals are 3.5" X 3.5" and can be stuck on the outside of just about anything or on the inside of a window. The price is \$5.00 each and can be purchased by contacting SarDesertRun@aol.com or calling 760-369-9999.



Earrings (1/2") \$10 and **Lapel Pin/Tie Tacks (5/8")** \$8. Fund-raiser for Morongo Mounted SAR Team. For ordering info contact Kim Miller at millerkm@29palms.usmc.mil or call Kim at (760) 367-1148 or (760) 367-1148 evenings.

SBSD Coffee cups \$5. High-gloss ivory coffee cups with gold-colored SBSD star on the side is microwavable. Available at Volunteer Forces.

SBSD SAR Pens \$10. High-quality, refillable ink pens with SBSD star and "Search & Rescue" on side. Great gift idea! Available at Volunteer Forces.

Custom SAR/Expedition Topo maps. \$14.95. See the web site for full details!

Garmin Offers NASAR Members Discounts. NASAR has an agreement with Garmin to distribute its entire line of consumer GPS products and a handful of its aviation products to the SAR community. Join NASAR at www.nasar.org, and shop the store at www.nasar.org/garmin/default.php.

Air Rescue Team. The Air Rescue Team is selling T-shirts and baseball caps. To purchase them contact Diana at VFU (909-387-0641) or Helen at Aviation (909-356-3800). Go to www.thetracker.info/classifieds to view photos of each. They are \$12 each.

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