



THE TRACKER

Monthly Newsletter of the Inland Empire Search and Rescue Council

August 2005

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Train For The Unexpected

Denny Wells, Victor Valley SAR

Our June training was a scenario with a lost motorcyclist in the Mojave Desert. Some team members left the team meeting early to set up the event, and at the conclusion of the business meeting the rest adjourned directly into the training exercise. An incident commander was appointed who in turn selected operations, logistics, communication and staging personnel. The last point seen was

“...they just saw a car roll over numerous times ... into the desert”

given as a UTM coordinate and the team was required to program it into their GPS units, a computer program and plot it on a map. With all in agreement, we proceeded north on HWY 15 towards the Stoddard Valley.

Everything was going well with the command post being set up, members unloading ATV's, and an orderly parking formation being attempted. Being the last vehicle arriving, a member ran up to

me yelling that they just saw a car roll over numerous times from the freeway and into the desert. Without having to say anything, members sprang into action. As medical personnel grabbed first aid and trauma bags, others got vehicles ready to respond. One member got on the 800 radio to inform dispatch. Within three minutes we had a nurse, paramedic and four EMT's working on an injured back seat passenger and others were evaluating the driver and front seat passenger.

It took almost 5-10 minutes before the CHP arrived and another 5 minutes before ambulance and fire units arrived. We cut the freeway fencing to allow the emergency units access to the accident site and movement of the ambulance litter. After the patients were stabilized or evaluated, additional team members arrived to collect the personal property that was scattered in the roll over area. An hour later everyone was living the planned scenario--with adrenalin still going full blast.

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Congratulations to Charles DeBruyn and Mary Grant of RIMSAR. They tied the knot on July 9, 2005



Photo by Duane Steiner. DSPHOTOS.com



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What's New in Volunteer Forces?

Lt. Glenn Grabiec, Emergency Operations/Volunteer Forces

Well, things around here are as busy as ever. Our two new corporals, Bryan Lane and Thad Riley, just completed the Search Management Direction and Control course and are back in town. This will probably be the last course for some time due to some issues with the new version of the search management handbook that is utilized for the course. We were fortunate to get Bryan and Thad into the last course. Once it is revised, we will be hosting this course in our county sometime next year. Hopefully we will have some student slots given to us. I will let you know.

On the aviation front, we finally received some of the new helicopters. What a difference! The feedback I am getting from the pilots indicates they are thrilled with the ability to fly as high as they need to and still have plenty of power. For us in the SAR world, this is what we have been waiting for. No more concerns about flying teams in or extracting someone from a remote area. This will have a tremendous impact on our capabilities in some of our most rugged wilderness.

There are a couple of things going on behind the scenes that you may or may not be aware of. Shirley Keebaugh (West Valley Team and SAR Council) and I met in reference to the formation of a search management team (ICS capable) that would respond on larger events and provide

some operational depth in the command post. She is also looking into the feasibility of putting together a core group of experts for search strategy. This would be a great asset to assist area commanders and/or incident commanders with large and complicated searches. I believe this is a direction we should be going and I support it.

In another arena, Frank Hester (Wrightwood Team and RROC) is looking into the feasibility of forming a team of subject matter experts to oversee standards in mountaineering skills. This would include regular trainings in snow and ice travel. This is another area that I support and believe we need to do all we can to increase the skills and safety level for all of our personnel. Keep in mind, these are just in the initial planning stages and will take some time to sort out the specifics.

We have just completed a TRBC course and the Intermediate Rope is occurring at the time of this newsletter. The TRBC course went extremely well thanks to the great instruction provided by some of our best subject matter experts. Thanks guys! I hope that in the future, we can provide more of these courses per year and on a more regular basis.

Thank you for all you do!

Glenn



SAR “Finds”

John Amrhein, Emergency Operations/Volunteer Forces

Blaze orange lovers rejoice. Why, you ask...because it's almost hunting season. And why should this interest you? For some reason hunters like to wear this bright clothing so that they don't mistake one another for a deer and knock each other off (although PETA members might think this is a good thing). So the outfitters stores are now full of Blaze Orange clothing. Many more items seem to be available this year in Blaze Orange (also known as Hunters Orange), like polyprop t-shirts, micro fleece pullovers, and all kinds of hats. One of my favorites is the Ventilated Upland Shirt from L.L. Bean (#EG46456) which is going to replace my summer uniform CAL Trans shirt. It's made of breathable, moisture wicking nylon with 12 ventilation points, reinforced elbows, and has a UPF (equiv. to SPF) rating of 40. So let the shopping frenzy begin and stock up on your Blaze Orange items at some of the following web sites:

www.llbean.com

www.cabelas.com

www.sportsmansguide.com

www.cheaperthandirt.com

www.orvis.com

www.sierratradingpost.com

www.filson.com

www.sahalie.com

Next I'd like to throw out a plug for a great source of SAR, climbing, camping and general outdoor gear. Arizona Hiking Shack (AHS) is owned by a SAR member who speaks the lingo and will take the time to make sure you get the right gear. AHS has given Volunteer Forces some of the best prices around for the annual "Wish Lists". So for personal or team gear check out the following sites and for a quote contact Dale at dale@AHSrescue.com :

www.ahsrescue.com

www.hikingshack.com

Have you ever been curious about what's in that tanker truck or railcar going through your area? If you don't have a copy of the Emergency Response Guidebook handy you can find out using this website. Go to:

intuitives.mine.nu/cgi-bin/esp?PAGE=placard.esp

Enter the PLACARD number (3 to 4 digits) which appears on the transport and hit enter. The HAZMAT information will be provided to you. Although remember, maybe it's a good thing you don't know.

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.

Water Putrefication (oops....Purification)

Sonny Lawrence, Cave Rescue Team

Seems like most SAR people carry extra water. That is wise indeed given the usual horrible taste or inherent hassle with purifying water. Attempts are made at hiding the disinfectant by flavoring it with Gatorade or vitamin C. Of course, that assumes there is water to be cleansed. Often that is not the case.



As you may know, SAR typing is being solidified at the State level (see archives at http://tracker.sbsar.org/SAR_typing/index.htm). Here is my suggestion for the typing of "SAR Water Purification Technician." I believe this category, appropriately, should be added just after "Swiftwater flood." Admittedly this topic may be hotly debated. Time will tell.

Type 1: Medicinal Technician; uses various forms of medicinal grade chlorine and iodine. Examples include Betadine and Aqua Mira.

Type 2: Cheapskate Technician; uses laundry bleach purchased at any local store.

Type 3: Techno-geek Technician; uses a variety of mechanical devices to either filter or purify water. Examples include but are not limited to Katadyn, Pur WaterWorks, Sweetwater and MIOX.

On a more serious note, the point of this article actually is to review a new device, MIOX. Please read details about it at <http://www.msrcorp.com/filters/miox.asp>. I used the MIOX on Aconcagua last year. I loved it. More on that in a moment. The readers should know that I have done

some pretty stupid things in the mountains in my life. Taking the MIOX as my only means of purifying water was one of them. Also, more on that in a moment.

Briefly MIOX uses an electric charge to dissociate a salt solution into mixed oxidants. Given enough time, these oxidants are able to kill all human pathogens.

Here's my take on MIOX. It is light weight. Two lithium batteries and a small amount of table or rock salt can purify a huge amount of water. The best part is the taste. For me, it left a great taste in the water. I found myself enjoying water purified with MIOX. That has never happened to me with any other chemical or filter. Always, in the past, I had to pinch my nose and just swallow or try to hide the flavor of the water, as mentioned above. Not with MIOX! It even took away the bad after-taste from some of the water containers I was using. But now for the down side. In bitter cold temperatures, the screen that separates the water from the salt plugged up. I thought I was purifying my water. At 21,000 feet with a bout of diarrhea, I discovered I was not. Ahh, that added a dimension to my trip! Thank goodness I had Imodium.

In conclusion, MIOX is a unique water purifying device that has distinct advantages over all other backpacking water purification/filtering systems. 

Another Letter of Thanks

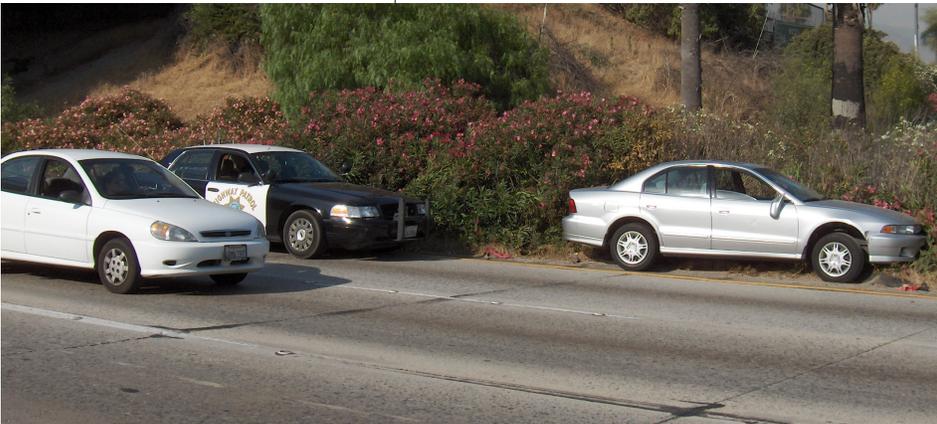
Below is a transcript of an email that was sent to Vounteer Forces regarding certain activites of the Bear Valley Team. Kudos to Bruce and Ann Harter, Summer Jones, and Mike Ward. Remember, that we "Train for the Unexpected".

I was in a hit and run collision on 6/21 on the 215 freeway, (took place about 5:00 near the 3rd St. exit in San Bernardino) 2 SAR trucks stopped to assist me, my car was wedged into the side into plants and oleanders. I could not get out of my door, and was extremely shaken. The SAR team stopped traffic and helped me out. The team leader put me in his truck, offered me aid, use of his cell and water. They were angels I truly needed, and it softened the blow that a person can run you off the road and leave the scene. I want to thank all of you, for your kind words and especially the leader who stayed around until after the

tow came and CHP finished his report (he made sure CHP was aware of the blue paint along the side of my car). It restored my faith in "good people". Keep up the fantastic work, I too am a County employee and proud to be working along with these wonderful people to make a difference. I am sorry I did not get your names, I would like to bring some goodies to all of you, so please let me know who you are. The leader mentioned the team was recently working on the David Gonzales case and they just got out of a training on 4x4 operation that day. Hopefully this will help to identify these great people.

Thanks for your assistance.

Sincerley, Frances



A note from Mike Ward

Even though Frances perceived there was a leader, there was not. All the SAR people involved in helping Frances knew what to do without instruction. They SAFELY went about shutting down the 215 freeway at rush-hour to reach her. Assessed her medically before extracting her from her vehicle, moving her to safety. They continued to look after Frances through her ordeal as well as assist CHP, once they arrived, with their requests.

In other words, they did what they were trained to do. Without hesitation, without direction, they put themselves in harms way to help someone in need; wanting nothing in return for their efforts.

Our search & rescue family is made up of truly unique and giving people. Thanks to ALL of you for "being there" to make things better, whenever, or wherever the need may arise.

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

April

Apr 16—Personal Vertical Skills Check-off
Hosted by West Valley SAR. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net) for information.

Apr 30—West Valley SAR 9th Annual Run for Rescue & Safety Fair
Visit www.thetracker.info/calendar/FlyerRun&Fair05.pdf for more 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 2—Valley of the Falls SAR Pancake Breakfast and Raffle
Visit thetracker.info for more information.

Jul 16—West Valley SAR Training
Rope rescue training. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net) for more information.

Jul 16-17 & 23-24—Technical Rescue Basics Course
Contact Mike Schlaw at VFU (msclax@sbcscd.org) to sign up. A \$50 deposit is required.

Jul 20—IESARC Meeting
19:00 in the main conference room at SBSB HQ.

August

Aug 12 & 13—Air Rescue Team Fundraiser
“Hollywood Bowl Style” concert in La Verne. Tickets are \$55.00, which includes food. Contact stephen.miller39@verizon.net for more information.

Aug 20—West Valley SAR Training
Rope rescue training. Contact Bob Gattas (rgattas@earthlink.net) for more information.

Aug 24—Central Mountain Rescue Annual Fundraiser, “An Evening at the Improv”.
Visit thetracker.info 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 1-2—Morongo Basin SAR 26th Annual Desert Run Fundraiser.
This exciting event is held on Soggy Dry Lake in the Johnson Valley OHV. This is a fun family event, not a race. There will be food, music and prizes. So bring your motorcycle, quad, buggy or 4x4 and have enjoyable weekend. For more information call (760) 369-9999.

Oct 3—San Geronio Search and Rescue Team Calvert & Johnston Memorial Golf Tournament
Golf Tournament and fundraiser 12:00pm-7:00pm Shandin Hills Golf Club. See registration flier and sponsor information at www.thetracker.info.

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	Contact Name	Phone	email/URL
BSAR / Vol Forces	Dave Pichotta	(909) 387-0678	dpichotta@sbcscd.org
CMC Rescue School	John McKentley	(800) 235-5741	www.cmcrecue.com
On Rope1	Bruce Smith	(423) 344-4716	www.onrope1.com
Rigging For Rescue	Mike & Joanie Gibbs	(970) 325-4474	www.riggingforrescue.com
Ropes That Rescue	Reed & Jayne Thorne	(520) 282-7299	www.ropesthatrescue.com/
TRBC, PVSC, NCRC / Vol Forces	Don Welch	(760)244-7340	ww26sar5@aol.com
Mountaineering / Vol Forces	Frank Hester	(760) 242-0855	flhester@aol.com
West Valley SAR Training	Bob Gattas	(909) 980-8820	boobali@gte.net

Articles Wanted!

The Tracker needs you! Please send articles to share with your colleagues. Send in a mission report or a trip report. Write an article about a team training. The Tracker has a wide national audience. Anything related to search and rescue is worthy of publication. Please send submissions to:

editor@thetracker.info

Hug-A-Tree

NASAR has taken over the Hug-A-Tree program, and they are in the process of updating the program. They are interested in contacting any past presenters. If you are a past presenter, or are interested in becoming a presenter please contact NASAR at :

hugatree@nasar.org

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 SBSB star on the side is microwavable. Available at Volunteer Forces.

SBSD SAR Pens \$10. High-quality, refillable ink pens with SBSB 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.cafepress.com/helicopter2classifieds to purchase these items.

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minutes are available at:

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