

Teasdale and Weardale Search and Rescue Team Newsletter July 2005



Dates for the Diary: The Barnard Castle Street collection is on Saturday 3rd September. Please let John know via fundraising@twsrt.org or 0191 377 2383 if you are able to attend. Wednesday evening training starts at 19.30 on 7th September at the base. The next committee meeting is on 8th September with the next newsletter soon after. The Team AGM is on Thursday 10th November.

Roundup of Team activities: Associate member Barry Siddle combined fund-raising with holidays when he was helping to organise a Festival of Walking for The Camping and Caravanning Club Mountain Activity Section. He put out Team collection boxes and raised £19.68. To complete the job he delivered it to Chris Scott's door. This collection will go into the General Fund to help towards running costs. A big thank you from the Team and the committee.

The team attended the Glaxo show in force this year – thanks especially to the newer members of the team. Our stalls raised about £20 and the sirens on the control vehicle got their most extensive testing of the year – just to prove they were superior to those on the Glaxo fire engine. The new team displays, Landrover collection tins and supporters' pin badges were also well received.

Peter Elliott of Barnard Castle raised £200 for the Team by completing a 4 mile run on Whit Sunday. He does this run every year and this year raised a total of £2,400. The Team have given him a year's associate membership to say thank you.

Langdon Beck Hotel has raised £250 for the Team with a beer festival – I am sure Team members will bear this in mind next time they are looking for someone under the influence!

Durham University Charity Committee (DUCK) have donated £410 to the team for high band radios.

Colin Dunlop, Ian Stewart and Victoria Callaghan are members of the Co.deaf charity (<http://www.codeaf.org.uk>). They will be doing the 140 mile Sea to Sea cycle challenge from the 19th August this year. They are raising money for four charities, Co.deaf, Down's Heart Group, Air Ambulance and TWSRT. We wish them a good trip and nice weather.

Fundraising: Team out-goings are currently exceeding our incomings. All Team members are requested to keep their eyes open for fundraising opportunities. Current funding requirements are over £200 PA for every member of the A and C list. A poster advertising the Team notelets, Supporters' pin badges and Landrover collection tins are available on the website – why not print one out and put it up in your place of work? The Team raised just over £300 at the Stanhope collection – thank you to everyone who helped and contributed. The Team's accounts will have to be audited by a chartered accountant for Leader+ - anyone who can help should contact Chris Scott ASAP.

Team talks seem to have dropped off – they are a good source of short and long term funding – please put any groups who might be interested in contact with Steve Owers.

High Force Notice Board needs replacing. If anyone would be able to make it at cost or knows someone who could then please let John.little@dunelm.org.uk know as soon as possible.

Equipment: The drugs in the Team drugs kit are being renewed and plans are now in place to try and stop them getting too close to their expiry dates in the future. The team now has a snazzy edge protector for use in crag situations and 5 GPS units.

Communication: The current pager system is going to be replaced with an SMS based system. Messages will be sent to Team members' existing mobile phones. Some extra pagers will be hired for Team members where necessary. Team members needing a pager are asked to contact John Little as soon as possible. We are grateful to the police for covering much of the cost of this change.

Certificates to thank employers for letting Team members out of work to attend callouts will be available shortly. There is also a public page on the website available for the same purpose.

Base: An emergency base key will shortly be held at the police station. We have had some further problems with the roof but this has now been sorted. The damage to the alarm system has also been rectified. A range of improvements are planned including resealing the garage floor and purpose built charging racks.

Membership: Paul Brassington and Justin Hawgood are leaving the team, although Justin hopes to return at some point. As ex-A list they remain associate members and we wish them the best for the future.

Newsletter articles are welcome from any member or supporter of the team – submit on time (September 8th) or be left out! The Team is still missing copies of newsletters between 2001 and 2004.

The Website continues to develop rapidly. The public site is looking good and an area exclusively for associate members is being developed. Behind the scenes a database is now up and running supporting a message board, an online callout database and a secure membership database. This means master copies can be updated without having to visit the base. An online training log will also be coming in the not too distant future. Team members lacking regular web access should let the secretary know so hard copies of important documents can be sent. Training sessions on the base computer can be arranged to get Team members online if required. All Team activities should be put on the online planner. Before the AGM all committee members will be writing a short description of what their job involves to help encourage people to stand for the committee. These will be displayed within the Members' Area.

The Associate Members' open day is now on Saturday 13th August – please encourage anyone who wants to find out a bit more about the Team to come along.

Call outs

We continue with our busiest year yet:

12/07/05 – Search for missing person near Wolsingham

10/7/05 – 14 walkers helped as part of the Great North Walk.

9/7/05 – Team on standby to help with search in Richmond for missing person.

03/07/05 - Request by police to assist in search for two missing boys aged 9 and 10 in the Peterlee area. One of the boys was additionally vulnerable in respect of a medical condition. Boys found safe by police as Team assembled.

23/06/05 - Continuation of previous search. Result was again negative. Missing person turned up safe the following day outside the scope of the search.

22/06/05 - Elderly person reported missing from home. Search of area was negative.

22/06/05 - Call from Northumberland National Parks Search and Rescue Team following a call to them relaying request for help from a walker with a twisted knee and lost in mist on Cross Fell. Penrith Mountain Rescue Team alerted and TWSRT Team leader spoke to relatives - Team on standby to assist until Penrith Mountain Rescue Team located walker at 18.45 hrs safe.

19/6/05 - Standby to assist in possible North East Search and Rescue response to flash flooding in North Yorkshire and reports of several people missing. Team on standby through night - not required.

15/6/05 – Lamb and Ewe crag fast at Holwick Scar – both sheep and lamb fell before rope in place.

15/6/05 - Request from Penrith Team to assist with call for help from lost walker. Missing walker located safe and well with minimum Team response. The problem was largely due to a corridor map.

13/6/05 Search for a female in her seventies suffering from Alzheimers. The missing lady had left her home about eight hours earlier to "walk to Rookhope". The Teams search found more sightings. Two hours into the search the missing person approached a member of the public who contacted the police. Team medics checked the missing person over and found her in good physical health.

30/5/05 Call from Police in respect of a male person missing from home in Darlington, with the possibility of his car having been located in high ground during the night. A small response group was on Standby throughout the night, including an advanced casualty carer and a SARDA dog. No further developments.

19/05/05 Request by Police to search around River Wear near Jubilee Bridge, Willington. Nothing was found and search was stood down at night fall to await any further developments by the Police.

16/05/05 A male was threatening self harm somewhere between Stanhope and Eggleston on the Pennine Fells. At time of callout the Police Helicopter was restricted by cloud base. The missing person's car was located on the road between Stanhope and Bollihope Burn. The missing male made a mobile call and said he could see a lake. His phone was then switched off. Team Leader advised Police helicopter of likely position. Police Helicopter found missing person and evacuated to hospital.

The Who's Who photo board should be appearing in the base shortly. A version will shortly also be available in the Members' area. The photo board will also include some of the less familiar faces such as POLSAs.

Car Stickers have finally become available for A list Team members. Please speak to Richard Warne if you require one.

The Youth team are leaving for a week's training in the Cairngorms shortly after the July exercise. There will be a one day warm up followed by a three night wild camping trek.

The Canoe Team is hoping to recruit some new members. Anyone wanting to know more should look at the website or contact john.little@dunelm.org.uk. We are having a training session on Sunday 11th September which will train new and existing canoe team members in all essential search skills and include a short search.

General Program

The August exercise will now take the form of an optional wet training day hopefully followed by a barbeque. Participants should bring a full change of clothes and a towel.

Team members holding CasCare certificates expiring in 2006 please speak to Richard Warne.

The September Wednesday evening training programme will be publicised soon - watch out for details on the team website.

Time & Date	Activity	RV
21/08/05	Wet training day	TBA
7/09/05	Evening training starts	Base
TBA, 17-18/09/05	Urban search Durham City	TBA
23-25/9/05	Cas. care training	Middleton
0900, 16/10/05	Teesdale Reservoirs	Kelton Moss NY 936204
TBA, 19-20/11/05	Helicopter/night nav.	TBA
0900, 18/12/05	Burnhope Seat area	High Force – car park

Programme is subject to land-owners' approval. **Minimum training requirements** for team members are 6 "Sunday" exercises a year. Any team member who cannot make an individual exercise or who is struggling with the general commitment for any reason should speak to the training officer (Ian: 01833 622285). Concessions are a possibility, not a right.

Training officer As many Team members will be aware our long serving training officer will be stepping down at the AGM. Any A list team member interested in taking on the role should speak to the Team Leader before the September committee meeting. More details about the role are available on the Team website.

Driving: A new document about Blue Light driving is now available on the Teams website. The protocol at present remains unchanged (we don't do it).