



## Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team Newsletter June 2007

Welcome to the June newsletter. It hasn't been a hugely busy time for the team with regards to callouts, only seven, since the last newsletter in March.

### Callouts

*22/03/07*

16.30 hrs request by Police to search for vulnerable male missing from nursing home in the Seaham area. Search open ground and urban areas, assisted by Police helicopter and 2 Team SARDA dogs. Stood down at 23.00 hrs when person found safe outside of search area.

*22/03/07*

23.25 hrs as Team were returning to Base following previous call-out, request by Police to search for a missing vulnerable male in the Darlington area. Open ground and urban search. Assisted by Police helicopter and one Team SARDA dog. Stood down at 03.00 hrs. Nothing found. Missing man identified as patient in hospital the following morning.

*25/03/07*

18.15 hrs request to assist Cleveland Search and Rescue Team in search for missing person on the North Yorks Moors. 14 Team members and two Team SARDA dogs attended. Missing person located by Team early in search.

*11/04/07*

Search Dog Skye & Handler responded to call out via SARDA to assist North Of Tyne & Northumberland National Parks Mountain Rescue Team for missing male from the Washington town area (Tyne & Wear). Missing person found outside initial search area.

*06/05/07*

Team on standby by Police following report of a male having fallen from High Force waterfall. Local Team members on scene along with rope rescue group, but full Team not deployed. Body recovered the following day by Police Underwater Unit.

*20/05/07*

Northumbria police via NNPMRT/NOTSRT requested Teesdale to be on stand-by then called to assist in a missing person search in Chopwell woods. TWSMRT were training with RAF Helicopter in Teesdale, and a search group and SARDA dog were flown to search area. RAF conducted aerial search. As ground searches commenced - the missing person was located by Police outside of search area.

*26/05/07*

Team search dogs put on standby to assist NNPMRT & NOTSRT for an on going search at Alnwick Gardens in Northumberland for a missing 70 yr old female. The missing woman was found safe while dog handlers were being briefed.



### SARDA

Firstly congratulations to Graham White and Fern who passed the pre-registration and stock test in October 2006 and also to John and N.U.T who passed their stage 1 test in April 2007. Good luck to them both with the other 4 tests!!!!

The four graded dogs have had a quieter time than usual with only 6 call outs to attend. Training however has not stopped with all the dogs meeting to train regularly.

We also ran a regional training event in April with neighbouring teams visiting (Yorkshire, Northumberland, Bowland Pennine). There were over 20 handlers and dogs. A special thanks to the Bolihope Estate and local farmers for the kind use of their land.

To find out more on Search and Rescue Dogs visit [www.twsmt.org.uk](http://www.twsmt.org.uk) and click on links.

Paul Renwick & Skye  
Search Dog Handler

### Crag

TWSMRT Technical Rescue Group (TRG) has been working very hard of late on developing their technical rescue skills in order to provide an extra provision to the people and visitors to County Durham.

Covering the whole of County Durham gives the team many different types of terrain and challenges, from single pitch crags, quarries over 200ft, very steep ground to water filled quarries. The need to improve and implement new systems around these types of areas has been met head on by the 10 -15 dedicated team members.

Training every Saturday before a regular Sunday training (giving up a whole weekend) has proved worth while after a number of mock scenarios were used to test the group over the past few training sessions with fantastic outcomes. The crag group leader and training team are very pleased with the progress made over the past 8 months and would like to thank all land owners for the use of some sensitive land, Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Brigade for the use of rescue dummies and also to the kind people and visitors who continue to support us.

## **Guide Lining**

Guide lining is used when we need to get an injured person down steep and difficult terrain quickly and smoothly. The system is essentially a fixed line put under tension to lift the casualty about two feet from the floor. Once in this position a team member can walk along side the stretcher, and guide it over the rough terrain as the team at the top lower the stretcher down the hill.

It only takes one team member to assist the stretcher down the slope (due to the stretcher only being 2-3ft off the ground.) yet it takes a team to assemble the system. Excellent system for getting an injured person off this type of terrain quickly



## **Highline Cableway**

The highline system boasts some similarities to the guideline, whereby lines are put under tension and a load is lifted clear of obstacles. The highline however, uses two tension ropes and lifts casualties and rescuers much higher. With the addition of "to and fro" ropes, we can essentially come in and 'pick' a casualty clear of danger and move them to safety.

This system is extremely useful in transporting a casualty across a river (we have three major rivers in our area) or a large gorge helping avoid long carry outs which provides a faster service to our casualty



### ***New crag team member learning basic skills***

Basic rope skills that can be used to assist a walker or climber over difficult terrain

All A list members are welcome to train with the TRG every Saturday before Sundays exercise.

Paul Renwick  
Crag Group Leader.

## **Sir Chris Bonington**

Team members Simon and Donna Stewart and David Robinson were climbing with their children recently at Shepherd's Crag near Keswick when they were surprised to see Chris Bonington and his brother pass by. Chris commented how pleased he was to see 'fine young climbers' enjoying themselves.

Once the children realised who Chris was (a brief history lesson from Dad!) they were very excited and followed round the crag to see where he was climbing. Being half way up a pitch he agreed to see them once he had finished his climb so at the end of the afternoon met the children and signed their climbing helmets and had photos taken with them.

## **Training**

17/06/07 – Exercise, water training. RV Kingsway 0900

27/6/07 – Safety on steep ground. RV TBA

11/07/07 – Cas Care, Advanced Nav Theory

15/07/07 – Great North Walk cover. RV, TBA

## **Mud & Sea Challenge**

Well done and a big thank you to all who were involved in the mud and sea challenge, raising funds for the Team last bank holiday weekend. A full article of the weekend's story will be in the following newsletter.

## **Fundraising**

A special thanks to all those who took part in the Sedgefield races collection. Apart from getting in to see the Miss Durham contest being judged, they also raised £569.42. Well done!

The next street collection will be in Stanhope on 23/06/07. Anyone who can spare some time to help out, please get in touch with Anthony Tubbs.