

# Teesdale and Weardale Search and Rescue Team March Newsletter:

## Changes to A list

We are pleased to welcome Matt Caterall, Paul Jenkins, Richard Graeme, David Robertson and Andrew Smyth onto the A list. Four other recruits from last year are making good progress and could all move onto A list at the next committee meeting (5<sup>th</sup> May, 19.30). We are sorry that Paul Hodgekinson has left the team after many years.

Please ensure the secretary Izzy (izzybarnes@yahoo.com) has your correct contact details.

## Email lists

Adam is creating a range of lists (team members, committee, etc.) for the team to help facilitate cheap effective communication. If you have not subscribed to Topica send him an email adam@kingswaycentre.co.uk

## Printer cartridges

The team is continuing to recycle Printer cartridges – This is currently worth several hundred pounds a year – Please put empty cartridge in the boxes at the base or contact Chris (chris.rober@btinternet.com or 01833 630 999) if you think you might have a good home for a new box.

## Street collections

The New Year street collection in Durham was postponed because of the Asian tsunami. The Durham collection will now take place on **9<sup>th</sup> April**, 10.00-16.00. Please contact John Little, John.Little@dunelm.org.uk (0191 377 2383) if you are able to help with this collection. We are particularly keen to see any associate members or friends. We also have a collection planned in Stanhope on the **25<sup>th</sup> of June**, in Barnard Castle on the **3<sup>rd</sup> of September** and our regular Christmas collection in Durham on the **10<sup>th</sup> December**.

## Glaxo show 12<sup>th</sup> June – 10.30 – 16.00

Glaxo are giving their annual show a major overhaul this year. The team are going to be their with a series of short talks, shows, demonstrations and display boards. All help will be much appreciated (Please contact John.Little@dunelm.org.uk, 0191 377 2383) – see sign up sheet at the base.

## Ex A list

The committee have agreed to offer Honorary Associate Membership to all previous full members. This seems like a small continuing thanks for the hard work people put in, and if they want to make a donation then so much the better! Please pass on the details of anyone the team may have lost touch with.

## Christmas Buffet

This year the team is going to have a Christmas Buffet (instead of the usual sit down meal). It will be on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> at the Norman Richardson Hotel in Middleton in Teesdale. The cost will be £5 per head and we would like to see as many family, friends and associate members as possible. The venue can take upto 100 people, has a private bar and on previous experience the food is excellent, Adam can also offer a good overnight deal at his centre (200m away) if required. More details to follow nearer the time.

## Dog's

Graeme is getting another dog. The teams three other dogs continue to make good progress.

## NESRA

Following a slightly nippy but very successful NESRA exercise organised by Members of the TWSRT, the post ex report is to be debated and actioned at an extraordinary meeting of Team Leaders and Deputies. This comprehensive report, brought together by Adam makes clear suggestions for the progression of NESRA major incident management. Durham Police and TWSRT are key players in moving this forward. For more information about this event see the MRC News.

## Recruitment

We had another highly successful recruitment evening and we are now preparing to start training about 10 new recruits.

## Cadets

The Cadet team is now bursting at the seams with cadets coming from Darlington, Weardale and Teesdale.

## Blue Lights

TWSRT have already taken a stance to suspend use of blue lights. DBS has made several representations at national level seeking a clear message as to the core issue of blue light use - namely driver training and litigation risks, and little response has been received, though Peter Howells has supported our view. NESRA has now adopted the same stance and will be taking this to the next MRC meeting - seeking a similar national stance. Our position is wholly endorsed by Durham Police - and just to remind everyone this is: Use of blue lights is only permissible to warn people of a hazard, ie) stationary MR vehicles on roads, protection of road side operations, attracting attention (missing person, helio etc), driving anywhere where there are significant other users who need warning (eg, forests, bridleways etc) - non response. Should Team vehicles be held up by traffic in response to an incident, then it is the responsibility of the Duty controller to assess the need and if absolutely necessary request a Police escort. Airwave comms can facilitate this efficiently.

## Winter Skills

The two winter skills weekends were a big success. Thanks got to Teesdale Marketing for their support in this venture which we hope to repeat next year.

### Corporate clothing

The team is looking wonderfully smart in nice new Kella, Paramo and Berghaus Gear (although I believe we are still waiting for some orders to come through).

Graeme White graeme@graemewhite2.wanadoo.co.uk is organising team branded clothing (A list only): Polo Shirts £13.00, Sweatshirts £14.00, T-Shirts £8.30, Badge £7.50

### Notelets

The team are selling team notelets (£1.50 a set) - if you are interested speak to Chris Roberts.

### First aid for events

It was decided at the committee meeting that team members can provide coverage (i.e medical cover) at events when asked but cannot guarantee it. They must make it clear to organisers that the team could be called away in the event of a callout. Team members must not enter into a contract with the event organisers e.g agree a fee, because that would make us liable and create contractual obligations however we can accept donations. Any questions on this please speak to a committee member.

### Canoe Team

The TWSRT canoe team is looking to recruit some new members. Anyone who might be interested should contact john.little@dunelm.org.uk

### Cheap Maps

The team is going to order some maps on behalf of active team members subsidised to the tune of £250 by DUCK. Please sign up for your order on the list at the base or email john.little@dunelm.org.uk

### Collection tins

Many of the collection tins are now numbered. If you take a tin please write the number in the folder, along with your name and where it's going. A few tins now also have security chains attached - please ask if you need more details (john.little@dunelm.org.uk).

### Website

The website continues to make steady progress and should take a major step forward following the April exercise. Anyone who feels they can contribute a page should speak to DBS.

### Newsletter

The next newsletter will be produced in May - anything for inclusion should be sent to john.little@dunelm.org.uk by 7<sup>th</sup> May.

### Call outs 2005 (to date)

10/1/05 Standby to assist at Carlisle floods

16/1/05 Call-out following report of male in river wear at Hunwick. Team flown in in RAF Sea-King. Body recovered

30/1/05 Search for male missing from home in Barnard Castle

31/1/05 Search continued re above - missing person turned up

safe

24/2/05 Call-out to assist snowbound drivers. 3 separate incidents

27/2/05 Search for female missing from home Towlaw - found by police and taken to hospital

26/2/05 Search from missing female teenager near Darlington - turned up safe next day

3/3/05 Rescue of dog from quarry face at Stanhope

5/3/05 Rescue of snowbound drivers

7/3/05 Search of River Tees at Darlington for missing woman - turned up safe elsewhere

12/3/05 Search for 2 missing walkers - found by team in Swaledale.

14/3/05 Search for missing teenager in Consett

21/3/05 Team member gave immediate care at RTA - person died before ambulance arrived

22/3/05 Search for despondent, St John's Chapel area

**Crag training 2005** - all evening session 19.00

**Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>** High Force - application of lower and haul, using quad and z rig. Personal abseils and haul recovery using stake and natural belay selection. Review of system, learning needs, and 2004 wish list.

**Wed 11<sup>th</sup> May** - Stanhope Quarry - stake placement, z rig, risk assessment and personal abseil protection.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May** High Force - various

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> May** - High Force - various

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> June** - Causey - various - flat bed off quad

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> June** - Cauldron Snout - recovery

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> July** - High Force - various

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> July** - High Force- tyrolean

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July** Mines awareness - **open to all team members**. Small Cleugh mine, Nenthead.

### General Program

Time & Date	Area	RV
19.30 13.04.05	Evening exercise	BC
15-17/04/05	Induction w/e new "C" list	Middleton
19.30 27.04.05	Evening exercise	BC
0900, 15/05/05	Crag/River High/Low F.	High Force - car park
TBA, 18-19/06/05	Hamsterley Forest w/end	The Grove NZ 066298
0900, 17/07/05	Pennine way west Durham	High Force - car park
August	No exercise	
TBA, 17-18/09/05	Urban search Durham City	TBA
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. A and C list team members are reminded that they must attend at least 6 exercises through the course of the year. Members should advise the Training officer if unable to attend. Any queries should be directed to Ian Findlay (01833 622285)