

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Rescue Team Newsletter September 2005



Dates for the Diary: The Durham Street collection is on Saturday 10th December 10.00 – 16.00. Please let John know via fundraising@twstrt.org or 0191 377 2383 if you are able to attend. The Team AGM is on Thursday 10th November 19.30 at the base – all Team members are encouraged to attend although only A list members may stand for a position or vote. The next committee meeting is on 8th December with the next newsletter soon after. The Christmas meal will be at The Forrester's in Middleton on Friday 16th December. It is open to all Team members and Team supporters. A deposit of £5 is required ASAP (to John Little). The total cost will be £11.50 (or less) per person. Accommodation will be available afterwards at The Kingsway Centre.

Roundup of Team activities: The Barnard Castle Street collection raised over £676 – a fantastic achievement. Indeed the collection was so large it took two trips to get it to the bank! Special mention must be made of the passing bus driver who gave us over £17 in 1p and 2p pieces.

£2100 has been secured from the Durham Foundation to purchase some more radios. The team will be getting 3 new airwave sets (bring us to a total of 9) and 7 new highband sets (17 in total). Airwave will continue to be used for command and control with highband used on the ground.

Andy Smyth's sponsored swim has raised about £150 for Team funds. The Team raised £200 by providing First Aid cover at the Bike Wise event at Aykley Heads. The Team will be covering the same event next year.

Hamsterley Forest Downhill race has donated the Team £100 and The Porsche Club GB Annual Gathering (at Raby Castle) £101. Mr Johnson raised £118 for the Team doing the Great North Walk.

Tate Radios have donated a number of high band radios for the use of the Team dog handlers.

The Associate member open day was a success and the Team hope to host another one next year.

The Team is still selling notelets (£1.50 for a set of eight) – quite suitable as an upmarket Christmas card.

Fundraising: The fundraising job within the Team is enormous and stands to greatly benefit from contributions made from supporters with a wide range of experience. Anyone (including C list and Associate members) interested in being involved with extending the Team's fundraising is asked to contact the fundraising officer.

The Team has reclaimed £446.21 this year in gift aid. Any tax paying donor may support the Team in this way. Forms are available from the Team website or Team treasurer. Gift aiding your donation increases the total pledge by 28%.

Insurance: The upgraded insurance is now fully in place – although the details of the claims procedure remain still to be finalised. Team members are reminded they are not covered until they have signed on.

AGM – All posts are up for election at the AGM. All A list members may vote and stand for any position and C list members are welcome to attend. Nominations are sought for all positions especially Secretary, Group leader (x2), Equipment officer and Fund-raising officer which are currently vacant. Details of what each post involves can be found on the website. Nominations are due to the Team Leader two weeks before the AGM (27/10/05). More details in the Members Area.

The Cas-care weekend on September 23rd-25th will be running approximately:

19.00 - 22.00 on Friday (3h)

9.00 - 21.00 on Saturday (12h)

9.00 - 18.00 on Sunday (9h)

The course is especially important for Team members without a valid MRC Cas-care certificate but other Team members are also welcome. The cost will be about £12.50 per person for food (Friday evening – Sunday lunch time). Please let Adam and Richard Warne know by the September exercise if you are going to attend.

The PageOne SMS system is now fully active. The police will only pay for the first (approximately) 17 group messages sent out per month so it is important we try and minimise messages sent. Please send other messages by email instead. Team members can be subscribed or unsubscribed very quickly and easily by Adam or John. Vodafone pagers are due back by Sunday 18th September. Please notify John or Adam of changes to your mobile phone number.

John is going to look into developing a backup callout procedure in case of PageOne or general mobile network failure. Please try and answer any questions as promptly and accurately as possible.

The MRC are running a Mountain Rescue Road Show on Sunday Dec 4th at Swaledale Base. More information can be found on the Team website

Cas-Care Kits: Recently the state of the cas-care kits has become so bad that it has become necessary to seal them as "callout ready". Scissors to cut the seals may be found in the outside flap. Used kits can then be easily identified for checking and restocking. The new drugs kits should be largely in place by the cas care weekend.

Equipment: The new edge protector is now in the anchor sac. A second edge protector will be purchased shortly. The old rollers have been disposed of.

Membership: Mehmet Karatay has started studying for a Ph.D. in Edinburgh so has now left the team. We wish him the best for the future. Ian has now been to his last committee meeting after over 30 years on the Team. We all wish him the best for his retirement. We would like to welcome Kyle Thompson from the Youth Team onto the C list.

Base: An emergency base key will very shortly be held at the police station. Team members will have to show their membership card and have telephone authorisation from the duty controller. Problems with the roof were evidently not fixed and advice is now being sought. Team members are reminded to park on the main road – not in the police car park, the visitor’s car park or the access road.

Newsletter articles are welcome from any member or supporter of the team – submit on time (December 8th) or be left out!

The Website continues to develop rapidly. There are now over 1600 files so please do report any problems ASAP – it is just not possible to check every file after every update. In addition to electronically communicating with the rest of the Team via the message board, Team planner and email, Team members can (and should): download their own copy of the callout list, check their address and phone number, print a sign on sheet, ... It will shortly also be possible to donate online, however, this will cost 4% of the donation so traditional methods remain preferable.

A paper print out of the planner is currently up at the base. All Team activities must be on the planner to be covered by insurance. All Team members can use the base computer to access the website. If you need help please ask.

Call outs

We continue with our busiest year yet:

06/09/05 30 year old male mountain biker reported missing in Hamsterley forest. Missing person located by the police helicopter and escorted out of the forest by the Team vehicle.

4/9/05 Called by the Penrith Team to help in a search for two vulnerable walkers who had reported themselves lost by mobile phone. The missing walkers were found by a rescue helicopter shortly after the Team deployed.

22/08/05 Team called to Merrybent area of Darlington to search for missing from home 84 year old male. Search of farmland and woodland. The Team was supported by police helicopter and police dog section. The body of the missing person was located close to where he was last seen.

13/08/05 A couple out walking reported themselves lost in Hamsterley forest (using a mobile phone). One of the missing persons suffered from diabetes and had run out of food. A police helicopter managed to locate the missing couple. The helicopter evacuated the diabetic while the remainder of the party were evacuated using a Team Vehicle.

02/08/05A motorist was flagged down by some youths who said a friend was stuck on a nearby rock face. The Team quickly assembled but could find no sign of the youths or their car.

29/07/05 Search for missing middle aged male believed to be at significant risk of self harm. Team deployed at first light (30/07/05) to area near Richmond to assist in NESRA search that had been going on over night. The missing person was found by a SARDA dog and the Team assisted in the evacuation to County Ambulance.

24/07/05 Elderly female Alzheimer’s suffer reported missing from home. Found by police as Team assembled.

24/07/05 3 casualties treated and sent to Hospital while Mountain Biking at Hamsterley Forest.

Personal vehicles

A general request made from the Police to all Team members and Police officers. Would everyone please remember that the road access to the Base and Police yard is regularly used by local children for playing – and we should drive accordingly.

In addition, it is also an opportunity to remind Team members that it is their responsibility to comply with driving law when responding on Team business. Any breach of road traffic regulations will not only nullify any insurance, but also potentially place the good name of TWSRT and MR in jeopardy, particularly if your car displays MR signage. Any Call-out request by the Duty Controller DOES NOT carry any requirement to drive outside of safe and legal driving standards.

The Who's Who photo board is now available on line in the members area. If your photo is missing or poor quality please send John a better version ASAP.

General Program

Time & Date	Activity	RV
18/09/05	Urban search Durham City	TBA, ?09.00
21/09/05	Ropes and Knots	Base, 19.30
23-25/9/05	Cas. care training	Middleton
5/10/05	Upland management and lead mines	Base, 19.30
0900, 16/10/05	Teesdale Reservoirs	Kelton Moss 09.00 NY 936204
19/10/05	Micro navigation	Base, 19.30
02/11/05	Search techniques - day and night	Base, 19.30
10/11/05	AGM	Base, 19.30
16/11/05	Helicopter Rescue Procedures	Base, 19.30
TBA, 19-20/11/05	Helicopter/night nav.	TBA
27/11/05	Cas Care exam	Swale base
30/11/05	Crag Training on Wall	Base, 19.30
10/12/05	Durham Street Collection	10.00-16.00
14/12/05	TBA	Base, 19.30
16/12/05	Social	Middleton
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 acting training officer (Ian 01833 622285). Concessions are a possibility, not a right.