MANIFESTO FOR THE MISSING. CARRYING OUT THE ‘PERFECT SEARCH’

FIT FOR PURPOSE? ONE TEAM’S EXPERIENCE OF A TECHNICAL RESCUE REVIEW

SEVEN STEPS TO RAISING MORE FUNDS

CLIMBING – DEAD IN THE WATER!
Beautiful but Deadly

The Patented C-U Lighted harness can be the difference between RESCUE and NO RESCUE

Hill Walkers, Mountain Rescue Teams, Emergency Services

Why take the risk

360° Visibility

It has no buttons, no zips and is designed to fit snugly around the body. Wear it over your existing clothing or as a garment on its own.

It gives you TOTAL PROTECTION in POOR and restricted visibility and also in COMPLETE DARKNESS. And each vest carries a FULL 12 MONTH GUARANTEE.

Confused about which mountain rescue team to use? As Martin Tovey of Keswick MRT says, 'We keep asking ourselves what we're doing out there.'

Thank You

If you have submitted news, articles and photographs for inclusion in the Mountain Rescue Magazine, if your contribution isn’t here, don’t worry. Everything is kept on file for future consideration, so please keep up the good work.

Editor’s Note

Articles carried in Mountain Rescue Magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the MRC. Further, we do not accept responsibility for information supplied in adverts/advertorial.

We never achieve mastery of the mountains; the mountains are never conquered; they will always remain and sometimes they will take away our friends if not ourselves.' Borrowed from Joe Tasker. Why? Because it is so far removed from the experiences described elsewhere by Richard Warren. The philosophy that recognises an element of risk in going to the hills is healthy and desirable because it inevitably implies a preparedness to deal with difficulties and unforeseen events. Far from this there are things that have happened to rescue crews that have been initiated because the breadwin is a threat. 'or we don't like the look of the next bit of path' and the onset of darkness is met with surprise and bewilderment.

It is difficult to know why the safety discipline of hill going has taken such a back seat for so many. Perhaps it is a reflection of society as a whole, where loss of mains electricity for a couple of hours assumes life threatening proportions. It will very clearly be a serious problem for mountain rescue if the trend continues. We have a tradition of self-holding criticism of those who are rescued and have had only limited excursions into the areas of preventative action and education. Perhaps this will change.

A fundraising opportunity may exist. If A fundraising opportunity may exist.

Australia has the State Emergency Service, providing everything from mountain and cliff rescue (not necessarily the same thing), bush fire fighting to urban SAR. If we roll up at MR, why stop there? Why not include lowland SAR, overseas rescue organisations and disaster dogs and save some duplication of admin.

Thank you for your continued support.

David Allan

Chairman

MOUNTAIN RESCUE MAGAZINE

January 2008

Page 3
SORTING OUT THE VAT
For many years the issue of what we should and shouldn’t pay VAT on has been a minefield for teams across the country. There are guidelines laid out but they are confusing and difficult to work through. HM Revenue and Customs have a dedicated team of people who deal with charities and have an understanding of how charities work. They will be contacted by email.

We will arrange details to hold a training session on 14th November 2008. This will be run by HM Revenue and Customs Homepage.

At the top of the page is a ‘Contact’ button. Click on that, then the right hand column on ‘Send an email’.

Half way down page is ‘Charities Page’. Click on that and then click on ‘Send an email’.

If your email is ‘sent’ ‘not general’ it will be passed on to a specialist.

It’s possible that, within the MRC, someone could take on the role of clarifying queries, but this should provide quick and accurate guidance. Please let me know how well this works or of any problems you encounter.

Neil Roden

Bell stretcher servicing
Lyon Equipment are pleased to announce that from 1 December 2007 they have taken over the service and loading test of the Bell range of mountain stretchers. As the mountain range is no longer being manufactured, it is essential that teams gain the maximum service life from the ones they have. Although incredibly strong, regular use in training and call outs will cause wear. Some of the textile and mesh parts will ultimately become damaged and need replacement. As with any other piece of hardware, regular inspections and repairs will help ensure everything works smoothly when needed.

The transfer to Lyon will ensure that the high quality of service will be seamlessly maintained. As before, two options are available. General servicing, which includes basic repairs and parts replacement, and load testing where a thorough examination is carried out followed by application of a load proof.

Records of all service work and test certificates will be supplied to customers with copies held by Lyon who also aim to offer a reminder service to teams to assist in managing future maintenance. Mountain rescue teams in England and Wales wishing to have work done should speak to Mike Margeson, Lyon Equipment Officer, for approval before contacting Lyon to arrange delivery of their stretchers. Other organisations should contact Lyon directly on 01539 626251 to discuss their needs.

It’s not just PPE that needs care and attention!
75 years ago, gear was either home made from old Whitewool nuts and stout hemp or cost a month’s wages and made in some alpine bain. Testing was done when you fell and inspections were carried out at the end of the day to see if someone ‘borrowed’ something from you.

Times have changed and today’s teams have become much more aware that hardware, like anything else, does not last forever. Everyone knows that harnesses, helmets and ropes need looking after. Doing the checks and keeping logs of condition is now second nature for gear gear like this but what about other items that are just as critical and take just as much labour?

Ground anchors, deadmen and stretchers can be essential kit on a technical rescue but are often overlooked when it comes to maintenance. Because of their specialised uses, not all these items may be CE marked or have EN performance standards. How do you test a ground anchor when its strength depends on what you hammer it into? However, manufacturers will have ensured they have the quality and robustness that ensures satisfactory performance. They will also have provided advice about inspection and maintenance. For straightforward items this may be nothing more than six month visual checks for cracks, deformity and corrosion carried out by the user but for complex items like stretchers it can involve much more.

The Bell Mk 3 Stretcher for example has a detailed user inspection checklist complete with lubrication advice and recommendations about servicing and load testing but how many owners reading this know where is 0 of it, what oil to use and when to load test? Maybe it’s the time you asked yourself if you should do that.

Paul Wiltheridge Lyon Equipment Limited
On the 19th April 2008, why not join up to 500 of your colleagues from around the UK to mark this unique occasion. Enjoy a magnificent dinner followed by guest speakers and entertainment at the International Suite of the 5 star Jarvis Piccadilly Hotel in Manchester.

Tickets are available now on a first come, first served basis. Dress code is black tie.
Service volunteers to the scene of the accident. They were unable to locate a path down from Harrison Stickle. This was despite being able to see clearly down to Stickle Tarn. We managed, after some confusion, to show them where we located them. We were confident they could make the remainder of the way safely.  

The theme of these rescues is clear – ill preparation and little specialist knowledge. Peter took charge of training and organizing others to scourne helmets and a stretcher from the local works, first aid training from the local GPs and temporary storage facilities in a lift. Over the years, fundraising with Peter in charge, the team assembled a series of vehicles, storage/garage facilities and more equipment required to locate and evacuate casualties from the fells. Since the team’s electronic records began in 1996, Peter has consistently attended more courses, practicals and meetings than any other member. A sample of the paper records show his attendance standing at over 75% at all the years checked since the early 1970s. In the late 1990s, the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association commissioned a report – ‘Rescue 2000’ – to look at the provision of rescue services in the area. One of its recommendations was that the two teams covering the south west of the area, Millom FRT and Furness FRT, should merge. As independently financed charities, both on a full commitment of members, giving written consent, the teams together was not a simple task. Peter oversaw the process and, after two years of hard work, Duddon and Furness FRT was formally launched in 2003. It would be easy for someone in Peter’s position to sit back on his experience and act on the change but this has never been an option. His fundamental commitment to improving the very best service to anyone lost or injured on the hills, a commitment recognised by an MBE last year. Peter will stand down as team leader at the past AGM but intends to stay on as an active team member. He has said ‘if you don’t care who replaces the responsibility he has carried for so long. Without Peter’s leadership and hard work over many years, I believe he has been an inspiration to his team members and others within MR, and we can congratulate him on this outstanding achievement.

Peter Jackson MBE, Duddon & Furness FRT. Forty years in mountain rescue.

**Historical Note**

Millom FRT was formed after a plane has crashed on Black Combe, the nearest summit to the town, on a trip from Blackpool to Newcastle. The airplane finally crashed and burned long after the crash and it was clear one of the people on board had been alive for some time in the wreckage when we thought a mountain rescue team was needed to provide the equipment and expertise to the area with any future incidents in the area. He appointed the town’s mountainrescue club, with the idea and a team was formed. Peter, as the most competent climber in the club, was duly elected as leader. The team has minimal equipment, no base or vehicle and

---

**Equipment Inspection Day**

**Date:** Tuesdays

**Location:** South Wales

**Contact:** Richard Warren

[07917 181042]

**UK AR 75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

**Date:** Saturday 14 April

**Location:** Lakeside Hotel, Wast Water

**Contact:** Fawright

[07917 300107]

**Parties Leader Course**

**Date:** Wednesday July

**Location:** North Yorkshire

**Contact:** Mike Marsh

[07968 035299]

**Search Planning & Management Refreshers**

**Date:** Wed 12

**Location:** University of Lancaster

**Contact:** Dalia

[07724 917019]

**Search & Field Course**

**Date:** Thursday 30 September

**Location:** University of Lancaster

**Contact:** Dugmore

[07868 893219]

**Airborne Conference**

**Date:** Saturday 5 September

**Location:** York

**Contact:** Nick Gwillim

[07798 898889]

**Equipment Inspection Day**

**Date:** Tuesdays

**Location:** South Wales

**Contact:** Richard Warren

[07917 181042]

**MRC Meeting**

**Date:** Saturday 15 November

**Location:** Lakeside Hotel, Wast Water

**Contact:** Smith

[07798 898889]

**Team Leaders Meeting**

**Date:** Saturday 6 December

**Location:** Lakeside Hotel, Wast Water

**Contact:** Smith

[07798 898889]
Organised a Joint Foundation Course in Mountain Rescue as we know it might change...

If you have any questions or comments on this and not necessarily for the best!

Third, send an invoice! Perhaps one similar to the Langdale Ambleside rescue team's ability to respond to the more serious incidents. A day spent learning how to

been transported somewhat further south to the rolling meadows of Switzerland, thanks to the mountain guide's telephone number in the first instance.

For the third year running, the Bolton team attended an outdoors service, led by the Rev. Judy Glover, to mark the tragic event that led to the team's formation 45 years ago.

ALPHORNS MAKE NOVEL FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

Mid Pennine

ARIANNA MAKENOVEL

ALEPHORNS WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR THANKS TO

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you

PEAK DISTRICT

SLIDEMERE SECURES KIT FOR JOINT FOUNDATION COURSE

PEAK DISTRICT

two of their adjustable hooks – to volunteer groups as a means of showcasing their products. All you need to do is add a bag, sack or bin liner and you
can waterproof your Land Rover grill for deeper wading. Team leader Chris Gregson says, ‘Their kit is vital for anyone who needs an adjustable, sprung lid down’. Find out more about the product at sidetrack.com.

COUNTY’S FINEST HONOURED

A prestigious ceremony at the Devonshire Dome, Buxton in November honoured individuals, groups, businesses, voluntary groups and charities who are making a difference to the lives of others, including Buxton MRT and Kinder MRT.

Councillor Joyce Sanders, chair of Derbyshire County Council, said: ‘We are very grateful to have a whole army of volunteers, fundraisers and committed groups and individuals working hard in our communities. Every day, they go the extra mile to make life better for us all by raising money, looking after our environment and helping others to stay safe.’

THREE CELEBRATIONS FOR EDALE

On Saturday 6 October 2007, Edale MRT celebrated three significant events – the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, new headquarters and a new control vehicle.

John Bathoe, Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, presented the team with a commemorative piece of crystal and a certificate signed by the Queen. The award is a national honour, equivalent to an MBE, in recognition of outstanding achievement by voluntary groups across the UK. An added bonus was the opportunity for three team members – chairman, secretary and treasurer – to attend a Buckingham Palace garden party on a lovely sunny day in July. The new, purpose-built HQ was opened by John Bathoe, who unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion. Over 150 people enjoyed a convivial evening buffet to thank all who have worked so hard to make the base a reality.

Chairman Rob Small said: ‘Moving in was a great boost to the team, fulfilling a long cherished ambition to have improved facilities at the heart of our operational area.

The benefits have already been realised. Days after we got the keys, the team was called from a routine equipment maintenance session to an incident on Kinder Scout. We were able to deploy three vehicles rapidly from our new base without worrying about security, as equipment maintenance was, for the first time in the team’s history, being carried out entirely indoors. With the roller shutter doors lowered, the uncompleted work was left secure until team members could return to finish the job. The incident involved a badly injured walker being treated on scene and then packaged in one of our stretchers before being loaded into an RAP Sea King for airlift to hospital.

More recently, we controlled a search on Kinder Scout from the new base. And word is obviously spreading as, recently, an off-road trail biker raced into our base to request assistance as one of his party had been injured riding in nearby Pin Dale, less than a kilometre from the base.

‘We are immensely grateful to Lafarge for their continued support. We’ve been based at the Lafarge site in the Hope Valley for over 25 years and have a very good relationship with all at Lafarge but this move does help cement that relationship!’

The new facilities are a vast improvement on the old, which were housed in the same building on the Lafarge site. The team now have about six times the floor area with underground parking for all four of the vehicles and warm, dry facilities for equipment maintenance, along with secure stores for medical supplies, replacement equipment and fundraising material. An indoor training and meeting area large enough for the complete team, a smaller meeting room and separate office and a dedicated control room to allow searches and protracted operations within the area to be controlled from headquarters. This room is equipped with computers, telephones and radio equipment allowing search managers to operate efficiently in a warm and dry environment. There are dedicated kitchen and welfare facilities for both male and female team members and an indoor training wall enabling team members to develop and practise techniques for rescuing those stuck or injured on the nearby climbing edges or on steep ground. Eventually we intend to fit out the remaining three walls in this facility to make it much more effective for indoor clog rescue training. In fact, the base is already benefiting all the teams in the region as a facility for PDRRO meetings.

The team also unveiled DM4, their new control vehicle. The Mercedes Sprinter van was donated by South Yorkshire police and has been fitted out for use on searches which cannot be controlled from the comfort of the new HQ. The team is very grateful to South Yorkshire police for their generous support. The vehicle is fitted with a control desk, radios, pump up aerials, 240V electricity supply for laptops and printers via an inverter and a bank of batteries, plus an equipment storage area accessible from the near doors and armour for riot protection – something they hope they’ll never use!

Rob concludes, ‘All in all, 2007 has been a very successful year for the team. Team members have even found time to attend 79 incidents so far.’

OLDHAM WEEKEND

This annual event, run by Oldham MRT on the first weekend in May, was introduced to stimulate an exchange of ideas throughout mountain rescue and other emergency services. The team started the event in 1981, when they recognised their uniquely privileged position of being able to develop their ideas on rescue techniques and equipment through their close links with Trief Safety Equipment Limited.

The weekend seminar now provides an ideal platform from which to demonstrate some of the systems and techniques used by the Oldham team, to stimulate new ideas and encourage continuous improvement. Originally only open to members of civilian and military mountain rescue teams in England and Wales, as well as HM Coastguard cliff rescue companies, for the last five years teams, from Scotland and both Northern and Southern Ireland have attended. During the last two years, the course has also been made available to members of all of the UK statutory emergency services, with places being taken by several police and ambulance services.

When? Annualy over the May Bank holiday weekend.

Who? Experienced mountain rescue personnel, with reasonable rock climbing ability, because the seminar concentrates on a variety of off-reef rescue techniques, including hillside exercises.

The next one? Friday to Sunday 2-4 May 2008.

Booking Inquiries will be sent out during January 2008. A booking form will be available on the OMRT website (www.omrt.org) from January. Places are limited and you are advised to book early to secure your spot!

SOUTH WALES

LONGTOWN TEAM MEET SIMON YATES

On the afternoon of October, Simon Yates visited the Courtyard Theatre in Hereford as part of a lecture tour describing his exploits both before and after the events in Peru that became the ‘Touching the Void’ story. While this incident undoubtedly raised his public profile, it is only a small part of a long and varied career as a mountaineer that has taken him around the world. Never wanting to miss an opportunity to raise some money, members of Longtown MRT arranged to hold a collection at the theatre, there being a number of team members living in Hereford. The plan was to park the team’s Land Rover outside the venue, and for team members to hang the collection plate up in the audience’s display of any spare change. Promoter Mark Dann introduced the team to Simon, who came up with a suggestion to assist.

Ventsa’s new generation lightbar incorporates the latest LED technology

Providing improved efficiency and functionality, Venta’s UK new generation Panther LED Lightbar incorporates the latest LED technology with a tough design for the most demanding environments. With high-intensity ultra bright LEDs as standard and a low profile design of just 77mm to reduce wind drag, the Panther is incredibly energy efficient draw – on average just 0.5A per module, yet still emits an extremely high-power warning signal. The use of a night dimming function reduces power usage even further.

All components are built up from the strong aluminium base and are plug and play for virtual zero maintenance. Combined with the wrap-over lens design, this allows for speedy replacement in the event of damage without affecting the lighting modules. Available with selectable flash patterns and with 12’ or 24-volt options, the Panther is offered in modular widths ranging from the 570mm Minibrake to the 1950mm six module bar with bespoke wider widths also available.

LED module options include 3 or 6 in-line or 3-on-3 double wide modules, with a choice of directional or wide-angled optics and colours that includes amber, blue green, red or white.

Venta can provide the Panther LED Lightbar with a wide range of fixing options including strapkit, and with an accessory bracket to accommodate automotive, GPS, etc so there is no need to drill through the roof of the vehicle. Other options include 35watt or 50watt halogen take down alloy lights, stop/furnish lights and illuminated centre. Highly versatile, the Panther can be configured in various ways and bespoke components can be manufactured to address specific requirements. With EMC approval ratings of ECE R10, TUEV and ISO spec 5 issue 10 approval, the Panther LED light bar will provide emergency vehicles with higher visibility and a lower physical profile resulting in improved fuel efficiency and decreasing energy consumption.

In an emergency, you can always count on £LITE.

£LITE’s first emergency headlamp.

Anywhere. Anywhere.

£LITE is bright, reliable and ultralight.

• street sensor;
• works in all conditions (cold, hot, hazardous locations);
• waterproof down to 1m in a useful life of 10 years;
• weighs up to 15g, or up to 4 lights in a row (4 x £LITE);
• weighs only 27g, you can keep it with you at all times.

£LITE looks good on you.

£LITE has 60 lumens of life (180+).

£LITE is bright, reliable and ultralight.

£LITE’s first emergency headlamp.

Anywhere. Anywhere.

£LITE is bright, reliable and ultralight.

• street sensor;
• works in all conditions (cold, hot, hazardous locations);
• waterproof down to 1m in a useful life of 10 years;
• weighs up to 15g, or up to 4 lights in a row (4 x £LITE);
• weighs only 27g, you can keep it with you at all times.

£LITE looks good on you.

£LITE has 60 lumens of life (180+).

£LITE’s first emergency headlamp.

Anywhere. Anywhere.

£LITE is bright, reliable and ultralight.

• street sensor;
• works in all conditions (cold, hot, hazardous locations);
• waterproof down to 1m in a useful life of 10 years;
• weighs up to 15g, or up to 4 lights in a row (4 x £LITE);
• weighs only 27g, you can keep it with you at all times.

£LITE looks good on you.

£LITE has 60 lumens of life (180+).

£LITE’s first emergency headlamp.

Anywhere. Anywhere.

£LITE is bright, reliable and ultralight.

• street sensor;
• works in all conditions (cold, hot, hazardous locations);
• waterproof down to 1m in a useful life of 10 years;
• weighs up to 15g, or up to 4 lights in a row (4 x £LITE);
• weighs only 27g, you can keep it with you at all times.

£LITE looks good on you.

£LITE has 60 lumens of life (180+).
with the fundraising efforts. As part of his sponsorship with outdoor manufacturer Mountain Hardware, Simon had a number of baseball caps printed up with the team’s logo and sold them to raise money. He also organised a raffle, where the team sold 200 entries to several local businesses to invite them to the team’s Christmas social and raise money for the team. The proceeds were to go to the team.

South West

Not a Bad Day Out Really!

8 October saw the Avon and Somerset Chief Constable signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Avon and Somerset SAR, presenting three new vehicles, clearing the way for their inclusion in the Tetra network and providing a real boost for the capital- intensive equipment purchase.

YORKSHIRE DALES

52 LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES

Plea

Some request but that was the figure

Wharfedale FRA came up with when they decided it was time to seek individual recognition for their team members. The team had accomplished so much over the years – a staggering 2000 years – a good number having served 40 years and several even over 50. Adding to this figures also it was decided we should not just look at the present year for the first time. The team have a number of other events they have organised by Gavin Grimsley which included some truly desirable pieces of outdoor kit prizes.

Manchester United, who just wanted more, there were two orienteering courses laid out, of 9.8km and 12.8km distance. I did the 9.8km route with others from Ashburnham team and I found the course enjoyable and the system is increasingly being used to give guidance to people on the path. The ease with which the signal is lost when the mountains, the distance is, (intentionally or unintentionally) hidden in a pocket or under a hood was noted. Keasewick now have a distance plan for the day, and have preidentified walking sets, plus units in the vehicles.

In mid-2007, the Dartmoor Mountain Rescue Group training weekend was run by Oakham Army Training Camp, on the north edge of Dartmoor. This annual event sees an invitation to play sent out to all England and Wales teams, SWERA organisations, the RAF and others. This year saw the four DFR teams (Oakhampton, Ashburton, Tavistock and Plymouth) join Exmoor and Bolton MRTs, and Hampshire and Wiltshire search teams. Also present were Kimmidge Carabineers, Scarborough and Ryedale. A helicopter from RAF Chivenor and search dogs and handlers from SARDA.

On the Saturday, a large search and rescue exercise was conducted on northern Dartmoor, with several scenarios designed to involve the controllers and the search teams keeping the site afoot. Each team comprised members from all the rescue teams, so people could get used to working with members they didn’t know. Ten casualties were deployed during the day, simulating everything from the usual sort of follow-up injury through to an ejector pilot and even an RTA. Some casualties were airlifted off by helicopter, with one experiencing a 40 metre whirl from Tony Clayes, while others were stretchered off by rescue team members. The helicopter also assisted with transporting personnel and equipment, and searching from the air. I was in an eight strong team tasked to search an area to the west of Great Link for a missing walker. We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.

On Saturday night, people assembled in the NAAFI for the traditional skittles competition. This has its origins in the mists of time, and all are encouraged to field a team. After a tense battle, it went to a tie-break between Bolton and WLSAM, won by Bolton. We also raised £237.47 for Children in Need – a combination of the skittles entry fee and a raffle organised by Gavin Grimsley which included some truly desirable pieces of outdoor kit prizes.

Tom Heming reports... 'Casualties screamed, we were running, we were running... People were screaming, we were running... We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.

On Saturday night, people assembled in the NAAFI for the traditional skittles competition. This has its origins in the mists of time, and all are encouraged to field a team. After a tense battle, it went to a tie-break between Bolton and WLSAM, won by Bolton. We also raised £237.47 for Children in Need – a combination of the skittles entry fee and a raffle organised by Gavin Grimsley which included some truly desirable pieces of outdoor kit prizes.

Tim Heming reports... 'Casualties screamed, we were running, we were running... People were screaming, we were running... We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.

On Saturday night, people assembled in the NAAFI for the traditional skittles competition. This has its origins in the mists of time, and all are encouraged to field a team. After a tense battle, it went to a tie-break between Bolton and WLSAM, won by Bolton. We also raised £237.47 for Children in Need – a combination of the skittles entry fee and a raffle organised by Gavin Grimsley which included some truly desirable pieces of outdoor kit prizes.

Tom Heming reports... 'Casualties screamed, we were running, we were running... People were screaming, we were running... We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.

On Saturday night, people assembled in the NAAFI for the traditional skittles competition. This has its origins in the mists of time, and all are encouraged to field a team. After a tense battle, it went to a tie-break between Bolton and WLSAM, won by Bolton. We also raised £237.47 for Children in Need – a combination of the skittles entry fee and a raffle organised by Gavin Grimsley which included some truly desirable pieces of outdoor kit prizes.

Tom Heming reports... 'Casualties screamed, we were running, we were running... People were screaming, we were running... We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.

Tom Heming reports... 'Casualties screamed, we were running, we were running... People were screaming, we were running... We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.

Tom Heming reports... 'Casualties screamed, we were running, we were running... People were screaming, we were running... We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.

Tom Heming reports... 'Casualties screamed, we were running, we were running... People were screaming, we were running... We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.

Tom Heming reports... 'Casualties screamed, we were running, we were running... People were screaming, we were running... We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.

Tom Heming reports... 'Casualties screamed, we were running, we were running... People were screaming, we were running... We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.

Tom Heming reports... 'Casualties screamed, we were running, we were running... People were screaming, we were running... We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.

Tom Heming reports... 'Casualties screamed, we were running, we were running... People were screaming, we were running... We swept a track for about two miles and returned down one side of a stream. I noticed, and it was remarked upon at the debriefing afterwards, how seamlessly the personnel from different teams worked together. Nobody watching us would have thought we were the same team at the morning.
Scotland’s largest outdoor retail and outdoor clothing giant, Tiso, and outdoor clothing giant Berghaus, have come to the aid of Scotland with a much needed donation of almost £600,000. A highly successful, month-long initiative saw 5% of sales revenue from selected Berghaus products sold in Tiso stores pledged to teams. The donation comes in the run up to the busiest period of the year, with unpredictable and often wild weather putting climbers in danger.

Stuart Ruffell, team leader from across the brand’s extensive range. Between them they have almost 90 years experience of selling products rose by 23% compared to the same time last year. The £572,665 will be shared across teams in Scotland to pay for new equipment and maintenance costs.

Support Mountain Rescue – Join BaseCamp

Now you can support mountain rescue and benefit all the teams in England and Wales. For £24 per year for a single membership, £42 for joint membership you will receive a Supporter’s badge, car sticker, a free copy of four issues of Mountain Rescue Magazine – January, April, July and October – delivered direct to your door. Interested? Fill in the form below and return to Neil Roden, BaseCamp, White Cottage, 9 Main Road, Grindleford, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S32 2JN

The donation will be a great help to all the teams operating across Scotland. Initiatives like this are great for raising the profile of the organisation and individual teams and, of course, raising the money needed to remain in operation.’ Tiso is Berghaus’ biggest customer in Scotland and sells technical products from across the brand’s extensive range. Between them they have almost 90 years experience of selling

Scotland and Wales.

Based on the information provided, the support from Tiso and Berghaus has been highly significant for the mountain rescue teams in Scotland, providing crucial funding for new equipment and maintenance costs. The presentation of £572,665 is a testament to the dedication of these companies to the outdoor community and the essential role of mountain rescue teams in protecting climbers and ensuring safety in the wild weather conditions they operate in.
The call came from the police at 16:15 on 26/10/07. A broken mobile phone call had been received from a group of youths who had become lost descending from Scarfell Pike and were now making their way on a ledge with one of them fallen beneath. The sole clue to location was that there was a valley with a stream in it, and no further contact could be made. Where to start?

Three climbers became cragfast when, surprise, surprise, it went dark! We eventually dragged them down, reunited them with their boots and escorted them to the bottom of the climb.

The following is an email correspondence from one of the climbers, reproduced with kind permission:

‘...It was quite shocking to read about the increasing numbers of call outs in the past few years. I intend to post on our club’s home page to let everyone (climbers and walkers) read it. Reading the examples of incidents, I was thinking, “how could people be so flippant/careless/irresponsible?”

Before I know after my own experiences... Of course that is no excuse. If it’s any help I can give you my interpretation as to why we ended up on the mountain stuck in the dark without any torches.

Thinking about your summary... I equipped it prepared/experienced and obviously pretty much fits the bill.

Over ambitious? I remember walking up to the base of the Straight Gill via the waterfall route in sunshine (even in December) and eyeing up the route. I had led a 4 pitch VS in Wales a few weekends prior to this and felt no nerves about it but we decided we wouldn’t do it.

The over ambition probably came from this last and the tropical conditions that morning, and maybe reading too many Mark Twick/Eric J Horlock books!!!

I prepared. As a result of my own ambition I left the ground fully prepared. I had never climbed before with my companions for the day, but I knew both had being climbing a lot longer than I had... their conversations of the trips to the Alps etc instilled a false sense of security... I thought I was climbing with more experience, and hence safer, people. I have been climbing on and off for two years now, doing a lot more than normal days out and our weekends are probably still inexperienced. Although I’ve had epic days in the Alps and other countries, too many people have told me to bring the essentials up the route... but I didn’t, and neither did either of my partners (one had been rescued before by mountain rescue in the Alps and the other sustained severe injuries from a trad lead fall in April 07), which was worrying, and I didn’t learn that until we were parked on a ledge 200m higher shivering in the dark! We gauged the timing wrong - forgetting to compensate for the third person climbing with us and a drastic change in weather. The conditions at the base of the climb were not as easy at ease at the base of the climb. And the grade (for myself and another at least) was well within our capabilities.

16 equipped. No head torch, food, water, walking boots to descend, map, compass. But luckily we did have mobile phones and cameras. I won’t walk to the shops these days without a head torch!!’

It started to rain and get dark on the third pitch, we
The piece of the puzzle -- and typical of any good jigsaw, the last piece was the hardest to find!

The world of technical rope rescue is one of those blur my teams, including ours, tend to skirt around. Trying to discover what works best for your team, what all you're going to need and how much you have to ask for from your committee!

Our team decided it was time to have a full system review. To do this meant opening our doors to criticism. In May 2006 we invited Mike Harrold (MRC Equipment Provider) to one of our crag training sessions – a standard type of rescue "casually falling on to a ledge and the only way is up". So we thought; Mike came with an open and honest view, sometimes too honest! He carried out an extensive technical review, identifying that our system was inadequate and personal skills sub-standard.

After this review people sat up, asked questions and began the process of change. As most teams know, change is often hard to accept and even harder to implement, but as a team we embraced this challenge with enthusiasm and excitement. The first crag session was a review meeting at the team’s base where one of the team members had court throughout the process of establishing what exactly do we define as a team; where we are at technically and how we get to where we need to be as an operational technical rescue team. This process took over four months yet, by the end of it, we had already begun to modify our technical work. We decided an extensive training programme was needed where we would train one Saturday a month, allowing us to address this change with more available training. At this point we discussed our policy of using team members as casualties in the stretcher and as a process of good practice we decided to purchase a 50kg Ruth Lee Rescue Dummy. The dummy proved valuable for everyone’s learning as we could actively involve everyone in the training while also being able to press pause at any time, and so allow us to leave the system set up to round and walk around.

The next several months were spent developing people's understanding and improving basic skills. During this period we also developed a basic notes manual encompassing what we were deciding our team would do is a knoll list and list of equipment to be carried by team members. During the same period we began to look at which system would suit us best – Rigging for Rescue, IRETA, Rescue 3 or Outreach systems – or one of these or others? We asked experienced person to advise, and Bill Batson (ex RAP MRS) - to find out which systems they use and why.

This was all before we began to work on our new systems. A small group of team members attended the MR conference (so that we were not only lying on the box, honestly, having found it to be one of the positive outcomes of this challenge – getting to talk and listen to others from the MR network and discuss our position within the 41st conference. Paul Witheredge kindly invited a small group to Lynn Employment Training, a day for where we worked on basic rope rescue systems and equipment.

By this time we had begun to form a rough idea of what we wanted from our systems – something 'safe, simple and quick'. Safe – we want a system that is strong enough to hold and even ‘catch’ a rescue load of 200kg or 2kN, while maintaining the ability to complete the operation following such a dynamic event. Must be capable of being used in the event of equipment or personal failure. Simple – well, I have to use it. Setting up and operating an ‘out of the box’ system. Fast, with the ability to change from lower to haul with minimum hassle and without compromising safety.

Quick – finally, we wanted a system that would allow rapid training and rapid application, all of which should lead to an overall increase in performance. We were looking for systems that could be applied to almost any situation we might face in our team area. We invited all the leading course providers were following principles similar to Rigging for Rescue (systems analysis, static systems, safety analysis) while using a variety of different bellies, devices, rope grabs etc;

We began to work on a simple two-line lowering and raising system using Petzl ID as it meets all of our safe, simple and quick requisites. We decided to purchase our primary rope control device on both the main line (working) and the safety (backup) lines.

The next year was spent developing training. We had decided the only systems we would need would be those that accommodate towers, raises, guiding lines and high lines. Some areas of development needed a more experienced person to advise, and Bill Batson offered this help. We spent many hours talking systems in a pub in Staveley, operational methods, techniques and protocols, I believe, following a naïve and potentially dangerous path – a path that could leave them, at worst, behind the curve of accepted best practice and, at worst, might expose their team members and casualties to unwarranted risk.

The rest is a blur of shivering and trying to keep warm, a search light pointing towards the valley below and eventually the voices of the mountain rescue team as they arrived above us on the summit.

Anyway... that was a little longer than expected but at least it helped me think exactly what we did wrong early in the day and how to avoid a similar situation in future.

To all the mountain rescue team that helped three lost ‘idiots’ in the dark on Sunday 9 December 2007 in the southern Lake District... I would like to express my thanks and great appreciation to the team that rescued us that dark night. I couldn’t believe it when we realised just how serious a situation we were in, but I was even more surprised at the speed and efficiency of your response team after our 999 call. Nice job! Without mobile phones and your team’s skills and efficiency, we would have been in for a very rough night on the side of the mountain above The Original. Your service was exceptional and I will never forget it! And as a member of your team mentioned that night... Santa has come early and delivered a spare head torch with a life time’s supply of batteries! 
Fort William Mountain Festival 15-23 February 2008  
A Celebration of Mountain Culture

Back for its sixth year, this is the UK’s leading festival celebrating mountain culture comprising nine days of films, lectures, workshops, art, writing, photography and music, bringing life to Fort William and Lochaber during the best winter walking and climbing conditions of the year.

Top climbers, paddlers, international films and public art colour for all ages and tastes, from mountain blasters to slackliners. Highlights include the UK’s first ever Slacklining Championships, a mountain bike themed evening featuring the Scottish premiere of legendary mountain-bike film ‘Markab’, the festival favourite Partly Up a Mountain plus plenty more.

There’s daily workshops in mountain skills, avalanche awareness, winter walking, mountain biking, winter climbing and both indoor climbing and ice climbing at Kinlochleven’s Ice Factor Indoor Climbing Centre. Bursting at the seams with extra events, the 2008 festival even has its own Fringe including music, writing, talks and book readings.

The film section of the programme will again include the Best of Banff (Mountain Film Festival) World Tour, and winners of Fort William’s own film competition will receive their prizes at the Nevis Centre on Monday 18 February. Back for a second year is the John Muir Trust Open Writing Competition with regular prizes for the People’s Choice Original Art Competition and the Photographic Competitions returning for another year.

The festival closes with an evening hosted by climber Dave MacLeod, beginning with the presentation of the inaugural Scottish Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture. Mountainer Kenton Cool and climber/film maker Matt Dickinson will discuss the ethics of today’s Everest, taking a close look at the issues surrounding the brutal fact that people have been left to die by expeditions high on Everest. There’s also a rare screening of ‘Everest the Hard Way’ about Sir Chris Bonington’s 1975 expedition on the NW Face of Everest.

This event, along with many of the evening talks and films takes place at the Nevis Centre. The festival closing night also hosts the Festival Art and Photography exhibition on show throughout the festival. There really is something for everyone at the 2008 Fort William Mountain Festival. Pick up a programme or check out the mountainfestival.co.uk website and begin your celebration of the stunning Fort William mountain landscape.

57 years of Mountain Rescue at Fort William Mountain Festival

Date: February 17 2008  
Location: Nevis Centre, Fort William

Purpose: To celebrate the enormous contribution made by previous mountain rescue team members (civilian, police and military) through-out the last 75 years. Part of the national celebrations of the 75th anniversary of UK Mountain Rescue.

Tickets: Book online at mountainfilmfestival.co.uk

Alex Gillespie will provide a talk on the history of Lochaber MRT. This illustrated talk will cover many aspects from the formation of the team to its current day activities, looking back at the amazing people involved and the types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘Duel with An ‘Teallach’ – a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1966, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.

• ‘40 Days’ –a one hour film and reconstruction of a rescue undertaken in 1967, originally shown on TV in the 1980s. This will be its only public viewing. The executive producer was Hamish McInnes. The film follows the history of an epic winter incident on An Teallach in the north-west Highlands. The resultant technical rescue attempt was a huge undertaking and included the likes of Tom Patey, RAF Schools and the local team members at that time. This will be a great insight into the long tradition of mountain rescue for many of the families within Lochaber and the extraordinary types of rescue that have occurred over the years.
In October 2007 I found myself trying to explain why I was in a room full of the world’s top wilderness and high altitude medics. I was there to help launch a new booklet ‘Travel at High Altitude’, produced by Medex/Medical Expeditions, but edited by Denzi Broadhurst (Oldham MRT) and myself (previously Oldham MRT and currently Derby MRT). So, how did I get there?

Denzil and I joined Oldham MRT shortly after the Lockerbie disaster. After training one evening, Dr Andy Taylor talked about something he’d read in one of his doctors’ magazines – a medical trip to Nepal looking for climbers to take part in the research projects. Our ears pricked up, we asked a few questions and soon found ourselves with a few other team members at a British Mount Everest Medical Expedition ‘planning’ meeting. It was 1992. Our involvement has been a part of life ever since. We have supported planning and publicity for three Medex/Medical Expedition expeditions in 1994, 1998 and 2003, including translating the medical research consent forms from ‘doctor speak’ into something everyone could understand! The Oldham team has also provided workshop sessions on improvised resuscitation for the Altitude Medicine Diploma in Mountain Medicine courses held regularly by Medical Expeditions at Paisley.

Nearly everywhere we’ve been with Medical Expeditions, MR skills have been required at some point – a fallen climber on Aonach Mor, helicopter evacuation from Tryfan, stretcher carry and HACE evacuation from Everest and anaphylaxis near Kangchenjunga. In 2006, at the annual Medex/Medical Expeditions social, the idea of writing a book about high altitude illness for the layperson was discussed. After twelve months of cajoling more than twenty doctors to write pieces for the booklet and hours of ‘translating’ their work into layperson’s language, ‘Travel at High Altitude’ was completed. The booklet is now available for free download from medex.org.uk.

Printed copies were given to delegates at the World Congress on Wilderness and High Altitude Medicine held in Aix-en-Provence. And that’s how I ended up putting books into delegate packs, promoting ‘Travel at High Altitude’ and explaining why as a non-Med I was there!

The next expedition is in the autumn of 2008 – anyone interested in joining us should look at the Medex website – you never know what opportunities it might lead to!

Managing head injury: updated NICE guidelines published

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recently issued the newly updated guideline on the early care of adults and children with head injuries. Developed by the National Collaborating Centre for Acute Care, the guideline gives recommendations on the care and treatment options that should be available in the NHS for people with a head injury. It’s a partial update of the original document issued in 2003, revising areas where new evidence has since been published, and also gives some new recommendations including imaging of children and the need for collaboration between hospitals to achieve optimum care.

Hospital emergency departments see an estimated 750,000 people with head injuries each year. Most cases are mild and do not lead to hospital admission, but a small number of people have a moderate or severe injury and may die or go on to have prolonged disability. The guideline includes pre-hospital management, assessment in the emergency department, investigation for clinically important brain and cervical spine injury and indications for specialist referral. Recommendations include:

- All patients presenting with a head injury should be assessed by a trained member of staff within 15 minutes of arrival at hospital.
- For patients with specified risk factors, computed tomography (CT) imaging of the head should be performed and results analysed within one hour of the request having been received by the radiology department.
- Children aged under 10 who are in a coma should have CT imaging of the cervical spine within one hour of presentation or as soon as they are sufficiently stable.
- Where a patient with a head injury requires hospital admission, it’s recommended the patient only be admitted under the care of a team led by a consultant trained in the management of this condition during his/her higher specialist training.
- Professor Peter Littlejohns, Clinical and Public Health Director at NICE and Executive Lead for the guideline, said, ‘Fortunately, the vast majority of head injuries are mild, but for injuries that are moderate or severe, it’s vital that health professionals can quickly and effectively diagnose and manage these cases. This guideline gives updated recommendations based on new evidence, which should ensure that health professionals can deliver the best possible care.’

The guideline aims to support the expertise of a range of health professionals and patient representatives who understand the complexities of diagnosing and managing head injury. It sets standards for all health professionals on the best ways to provide care.

When BaseCamp was launched back in March this year there was absolutely no budget for marketing or publicity. As we had a bit of space at the NEC Outdoors Show and access to car stickers, lapel badges and the quarterly magazines. Now, nine months on, we have what looks like being a very successful way of promoting Mountain Rescue and bringing in much needed financial support.

Blacks, the high street retailer have recently agreed to help promote BaseCamp and, early in 2008, will have leaflets at the till in all their shops. Hopefully this will bring in a lot more members.

This year’s Ordinance Survey Outdoors Show at the NEC runs from 14-16 March. Mountain Rescue will be well represented and it will be the first anniversary of BaseCamp. It’s a good day out and a great opportunity to meet a few of the people involved.

The role of BaseCamp is to promote mountain rescue and the work it does but another important function is to bring money into the organisation. If you have any ideas for raising funds please contact me through the MRC website.

Neil Roden

BaseCamp news…..
Don't hesitate, defibrillate!

Most MRs debate long and hard whether or not to invest in a defibrillator. The usual arguments go something like this. "Nothing else to carry... it'll never be used... money could be better spent on other gear... Hill walkers are generally fit and don't die from heart attacks..."

But then, on the other hand... more elderly and infirm are taking to the hills... "Television have the capacity for seventy life saving shocks before replacing the battery and is a quarter the size of existing units..."

In fact, the Fred Easyport is so small (133x126x50mm) and light (490gms) it fits into any response bag. The unit of choice for a number of mountain rescue teams and the size of a personal CD player, its design enables people who may infrequently be faced with an emergency medical situation, to have the confidence to save life. It's efficient and effective, versatile and robust and its size makes it truly available to carry anywhere, and into any situation. FRED® Easyport has the capacity for seventy life saving shocks before replacing the battery and is a quarter the size of existing units. So, don't hesitate defibrillate!

It's all in the bag!

Whatever they carry, the bags you use to transport life-saving equipment must be fit for purpose and protect both the kit they hold and the safety of the carrier. And this may require a tailor-made solution, rather than off the peg. In a nutshell, a kit bag should protect the tools it carries, be easy to access by the user, be tough and weatherproof, have a smooth, snag-proof exterior, be safe for the user to manually carry and have good weight distribution.

For example, working with the fire services Judi Collins, managing director of emergency bag manufacturer Prolight, says, 'We take notes of the specifications, which include how many tools fire personnel want to carry in a bag; which tools need to be accessed first; which bits go with which; weight and size ratios of the individual bits of kit; and any potential or actual restrictive and difficult places to work, not dissimilar to the steep crag face. Having the right bag is incredibly important to the emergency services and using a bag that has not been designed for purpose can add unnecessary time to the rescue of a life.'

To find out more call 01246 240009 or email judi@proflightbag.co.uk

Amputees in action

Amputees in Action Ltd is an agency that specialises in amputee extras and featured action extras for the media industry. Face of Art specialises in professional face, body painting and visual effects (SFX). What is the relevance to mountain rescue?

If you’re a mountain rescue team, or someone who has the opportunity to use the skills of an amputee, then this is how we can help you.

Don’t hesitate, defibrillate!

It’ll never be used... money could be better spent on other gear... Hill walkers are generally fit and don’t die from heart attacks...

Don’t hesitate, defibrillate!

It’ll never be used... money could be better spent on other gear...

Hill walkers are generally fit and don’t die from heart attacks...

Defibs are becoming cheaper and very effective, versatile and robust and its size makes it truly available to carry anywhere... and into any situation.

Teams and the size of a personal CD player, its design enables people who may infrequently be faced with an emergency medical situation, to have the confidence to save life. It’s efficient and effective, versatile and robust and its size makes it truly available to carry anywhere, and into any situation.

FRED® Easyport has the capacity for seventy life saving shocks before replacing the battery and is a quarter the size of existing units. So, don’t hesitate defibrillate!

It’s all in the bag!

Whatever they carry, the bags you use to transport life-saving equipment must be fit for purpose and protect both the kit they hold and the safety of the carrier. And this may require a tailor-made solution, rather than off the peg.

In a nutshell, a kit bag should protect the tools it carries, be easy to access by the user, be tough and weatherproof, have a smooth, snag-proof exterior, be safe for the user to manually carry and have good weight distribution.

For example, working with the fire services Judi Collins, managing director of emergency bag manufacturer Prolight, says, ‘We take notes of the specifications, which include how many tools fire personnel want to carry in a bag; which tools need to be accessed first; which bits go with which; weight and size ratios of the individual bits of kit; and any potential or actual problems likely to be encountered when attending an incident.’

Work is currently underway for Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service, to produce a bag suitable for ascending high rise buildings – using a bag that has not been designed for purpose can add unnecessary time to the rescue of a life. To find out more call 01246 240009 or email judi@proflightbag.co.uk.

HYPO-FIT SYRUP 74.5%

"Restores energy quickly. You may not need them yourself, but someone else may."

As used by “THE LLANBERIS MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM”

Quick And Easy to take!

The Brilliant Box will keep your Hypo-Fit sachets safe anywhere

LONG SHELF LIFE AND NO ADDITIVES

Brill Box contains 2 orange flavoured sachets

Refill sachets for the Brilliant Box are available!

These are packed... These are packed...

TWIN ELEVEN x 18gm sachets per box
On their chances when Sid hit the ditch in a skid.

And the leader said, ‘Sidney, a word to the wise. Get the stretchers collected. We must make a start.’

Then the driver came running, adjusting his flies

And before you forget see you net in the Set.

And emergency packs on the Land Rover racks

They went slow on the snow, but it just put the lid

And we’ll run into snow when we get to the Pass.’

For we’ll get in a sweat, then be frozen and wet,

With the wind coming up and the glass going down,

But there’s ice on the edges and frost on the grass

‘Here’s a message. It’s urgent,’ said Jones on the phone.

‘There’s a fool lost on Snowdon. He went off alone

existing and potential – who support us locally and nationally. Long may this continue.

which both sides have worked hard to create. Thank you to all those suppliers, manufacturers and retailers –

advertisers, you wouldn’t be reading this magazine. Nothing in its current form, anyway. And that’s a two way street.

the piece to fit the available space. Trust me, you wouldn’t thank your favourite magazines for reproducing

are perfectly free to interpret your carefully crafted words in their own style, put their own ‘spin’ on a story or add

the fill the available space. Trust me, you wouldn’t thank your favourite magazines for reproducing

verbatim some of the lengthy submissions they receive, however informative.

But, back to the Blacks deal. The truth of the matter is that Blacks have agreed to sponsor Mountain Rescue (England & Wales) with, amongst other things, a lump sum payment of £20,000 per annum which goes into the national pot, along with other income generated by national fundraising, to benefit all teams. For that we say, ‘thank you Blacks’. In return, it has been agreed that keepers of mountain rescue teams will test the Techincal kit in the rescue environment and provide feedback to Blacks. Blacks are also able to claim in their promotional material that mountain rescue equipment has been tested and developed in conjunction with teams from Mountain Rescue (England & Wales). However, they are categorically not providing complete kit and equipment for every team member in England and Wales. (I can’t begin to imagine what that little bill would amount to!).

The agreement is one of several national sponsorships, including Ordnance Survey for the digital map tiles. Memory Map for the mapping systems, Burton McCall for high quality accessories and Goodyear for team member in England and Wales. (I can’t begin to imagine what that little bill would amount to!).

The agreement is one of several national sponsorships, including Ordnance Survey for the digital map tiles. Memory Map for the mapping systems, Burton McCall for high quality accessories and Goodyear for team member in England and Wales. (I can’t begin to imagine what that little bill would amount to!).

Korea’s<br>Amg<br>Head Weave with Head Strap<br>£299.00<br>KDFB01<br>Perforator 1.0 Oryl Vrine Cylinder<br>£229.00<br>KDFB09<br>Perforator 1.7 Oryl Vrime Cylinder<br>£254.00<br>KDFB09<br>Perforator 2.3 Oryl Vrime Cylinder<br>£279.00

EMERGENCY BAG<br>£99.00

BestMed Nebulizer<br>£39.99

Emergency Bag<br>Cost effective 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, etc. units available. (Min order £99.00)

Consistent high quality and feature rich mobility for adult patients requiring emergency bag<br>£99.00

Conveniently store belts<br>£99.00

Conveniently store belts<br>£99.00

Conveniently store belts<br>£99.00

Kongur Standard 6 Fold Jacket – Orange - Supplied camaleon with 3 x Wire PVC Straps & Orange/Black Carry Case<br>£140.00

KPFH151<br>1. K Mod Standard 6 Fold Jacket - Orange - Supplied complete with 2 x Wire PVC Straps & Carry Case<br>£119.00

KPFH201<br>2. K Mod Standard 6 Fold Jacket - Orange - Supplied complete with 2 x Wire PVC Straps & Carry Case<br>£119.00

KPFH211<br>£99.00

EMERGENCY BAG<br>£99.00

Kongur is available in sizes S – XXL and in 3 colours – True Red (pictured) Ocean Blue and Burnt Orange.

BestMed Nebulizer<br>£99.00

Emergency Bag<br>Cost effective 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, etc. units available. (Min order £99.00)

Conveniently store belts<br>£99.00

Conveniently store belts<br>£99.00

Conveniently store belts<br>£99.00

Kongur Standard 6 Fold Jacket – Orange - Supplied camaleon with 3 x Wire PVC Straps & Orange/Black Carry Case<br>£140.00

KPFH151<br>1. K Mod Standard 6 Fold Jacket - Orange - Supplied complete with 2 x Wire PVC Straps & Carry Case<br>£119.00

KPFH201<br>2. K Mod Standard 6 Fold Jacket - Orange - Supplied complete with 2 x Wire PVC Straps & Carry Case<br>£119.00

KPFH211<br>£99.00

EMERGENCY BAG<br>£99.00

Kongur is available in sizes S – XXL and in 3 colours – True Red (pictured) Ocean Blue and Burnt Orange.
Commitment to safety on the roads and the hills

Patterdale MRT and Cumbria Constabulary’s Driver Training team have been working together to ensure that every mountain rescue team member who drives a vehicle on the roads in an emergency has been trained to drive safely, whatever the urgency.

The Road Safety Act 2006 came into force early in 2007 and puts new limits on emergency drivers,

explains Sgt Malcolm Hodgson who heads up the Driver Training school based at Carleton Hall near Penrith. ‘If the mountain rescue team chooses to use a blue light on the roads to get to emergencies as fast as it can, then its drivers must have completed a theory course and a day of practical training and then have passed an assessment. Patterdale is one of several local teams who have worked their way through this training and we have also called on the services of my predecessor, Chris Hudson, who has been working with the team on the practical aspects.’

Nigel Halling is the training officer for Patterdale MRT. ‘This emergency on-road driver training has been a big part of our programme for 2007 with about fourteen of our members completing both the theory course and the practical side. We are very grateful to Malcolm and his team and to Chris Hudson for their time and support – there are about ten new drivers, rescue team members across Cumbria and we really appreciate the support from the police in enabling us to complete this essential training.’

Roy Griffin is one of the Patterdale team who has completed the training. ‘We had learnt in the theory sessions about emergency overtaking and cornering but it was something else to put it into practice under pressure. The balance of speed and safety is crucial and I feel much more confident now about getting that balance right in an emergency.’

Off-road driving is also an important skill for MRT drivers and staff at the Greystoke Castle estate have supported Patterdale MRT on this for about fifteen years. ‘Everyone who intends to drive our Land Rover vehicles has completed the off-road course,’ explains team leader, Dave Freeborn. ‘It’s one of the first things new members do once they have completed their initial hill training with the team. Neville Howard and the team at Greystoke Castle have offered us a tailored course that gives us exactly the skills we need to get to areas near our location and we have always been very grateful for this support.’

Neville continues, ‘It always seems to me to typically British that one of the truly indispensable services in the Lake District is run on a voluntary basis. The work that the mountain rescue teams carry out is vital, ill-funded and probably under-estimated. It really does take all of us to support this cause as best we can, as often as we can.

All Patterdale MRT members have now completed their on-road emergency driver training, equipping them to be safe on the roads as well as on the hills and therefore a tremendous support from both Cumbria Constabulary and Greystoke Castle.

Exclusive insurance policies for mountain rescue

James Truckett & Son (Insurances) Limited, are pleased to announce that they have arranged on a nationwide basis, the following three exclusive insurance policies specifically for mountain search and rescue, and associated teams.

1. Firstly, our Motor Policy, for individual vehicles and fleets, is now based on a nationwide flat premium, provides cover for blue light use, and for any licensed driver aged between 25 and 65 with at least twelve months full driving experience (exceptions can be accommodated).

2. Secondly, our Trustees Indemnity Policy can provide cover at varying levels of indemnity and will automatically provide Legal Expenses and Loss of Reputation cover.

3. Thirdly, our Charity Connect Policy will not only provide the standard cover for buildings and contents, but will automatically provide full accidental damage cover. Policies can be extended to give property owners liability, goods in transit, money and fidelity guarantee cover.

All policies would attract a no claim discount after 12 months claim free.

Policies can be extended to cover certain fundraising events. All these special arrangements have been negotiated on a nationwide basis, with X Rated, UK Insurers, so every organisation receives the benefits of the success of this insurance scheme.

For further details contact Stephen Darwen at James Truckett & Son (Insurances) Limited on 01768 772203 or stephen.darwen@truckettsinsurance.co.uk

Land Rover - The iconic brand

Copley Land Rover in Halifax was first opened in 1948, which makes it one of the oldest and most established retail showrooms in the country. Moving forward to 2007, Copley now has a broad range of vehicles on display at all its dealerships, and something to offer every driver – from combusting a range of Land Rovers to TerraSeca handling to unrivaled luxury with peerless off-road performance.

For further details on the Discovery 3 and the 2007 Defender, call 01422 363340 or visit Copley Land Rover’s Wakefield Road showroom

National blue light users update with Bob Jackson

Well hello there again... if you read my last submission you may have thought... strange ending! But is that not what happens when we least expect it, something takes us away from our original process and we are directed by our responsibilities to go and do something else. This is somewhat normal for people who give up their time to help others in their time of need, and this is especially poignant when this time is given by people in the voluntary sector.

You may recall from my previous article, I have very strong feelings in relation to those who drive vehicles fitted with blue lights and/or sirens, either as part of their chosen profession or as part of a voluntary organisation. To set the scene I need to explain where I am coming from. As a result of the National Blue Light Users Conference, it became apparent that some major concerns were being felt by the delegates. One of the major concerns was that not all emergency services are treated the same.

An example of the existing lack of consistency is that, whilst police, fire and ambulance vehicles are exempt from adherence to the speed limits, the mines rescue service, the bomb disposal teams, the National Blood Service, Human Tissue for Transplant services, the RNLI and the Marine Coastguard, whilst all providing life saving services are not permitted to exceed speed limits and are subject to all other road regulations. To add to the confusion, the National Blood Service are permitted to cross red traffic lights and pass the other side of ‘pass this side’ signs. This list of these services are permitted and allowed to display blue lights, but not take advantage of the exemptions afforded to the primary emergency services.

The mountain rescue services, very clearly in my opinion, declare the majority of their vehicles as ‘Ambulances’ and as such could claim to be one of the primary emergency services. However this would need to be tested in a court of law. Of course, it also has to be borne in mind that if a claim brings with it responsibility, all NHS primary care ambulance drivers have to meet a set response driving criteria. Where would that leave a mountain rescue team in the event of a court case? Hopefully when the relevant Road Safety Act sections are enacted, mountain rescue will get the recognition it deserves and be able to have its own status.

Then of course there was the lack of advice to road users about what action they should take when encountering emergency vehicles using their audible and visual warnings, so a video was produced that went to all road safety officers, police casualty reduction officers and other interested parties.

My belief was that the UK emergency services (all of them) deserved a set of simpler regulations that determined exactly what is an emergency service, the exemptions all would be allowed to claim and a minimum national standard of response driving that was applicable to all.

So, to get up to date, the Road Safety Bill was given Royal assent and appears all if not most of these issues. Not quite what I imagined to be the case, but this service as a team and the Police in enabling us to complete this essential training.

My belief was that the UK emergency services driving standards surely has to be the people who have done it for real, taught us what to do, and have real experience in meeting both the physical and mental demands of this type of driving. It is because of this belief, that a select small group of specialists in emergency response level driving have got together to provide a one shop stop to cover all aspects of this complex issue, from driving psychology, alcohol drugs and fatigue policies, health and safety audits, policy and procedure audits through to response level driver training and testing, and independent collision investigation. For further information of how we may be able to help you, please contact the Driving Education Alliance on 07776 093645 and speak to Wendy.

In the day time you are at the point end and care about, are interested in or involved in emergency response driver training, why not visit www.ams.org.uk - click on National Blue Light Users Conference (where you can find presentations from previous conferences) and see what you’ve missed so far.
Have You Got What it Takes?

The ShelterBox Challenge 2008 is a tough but fun two day adventure event in which teams of four navigate their way across the wilds of Dartmoor National Park. Each team must deliver a loaded ShelterBox to its final location in the shortest time possible, using only their skills and the contents of the box to survive!

- Two day adventure challenge
- 26th and 27th April 2008
- One overnight camp in a ShelterBox tent
- Teams of four (of any sex combination)
- Help raise funds for ShelterBox

For more info: www.shelterboxchallenge.com

ShelterBox is a charity based in Cornwall that delivers boxes of survival equipment to people displaced by natural and other disasters anywhere in the world. Each ShelterBox contains essential equipment that aids survival in the days and weeks that follow a disaster. The speed at which help reaches victims is crucial.

Places are strictly limited. Book yours now! Call 01548 853524

Kit crit Keela Scuffers

Remember the days in the 1980s when it was cool to wear Lycra tights on the hill in mad colours? Well fortunately those days seems to have passed, and there are now a multitude of high tech walking trousers out there on the market, ranging from £10 to £200.

Bowland Pennine MRT have recently been issued with the new Keela Scuffers trouser. This black, high tech pant in 4-way stretch fabric is furnished with three zip front pockets, one rear and one secret hidden pocket on the back of the belt (we have no idea what it’s for though). Double seat and reinforced rubberised knees and ankle points finish off the trousers along with two side vent zip for cooling.

I have been using these pants for over six months, on and off the hills, and they have proved to be hard wearing, fast drying, shower and wind proof. Last year, a team training trip to Chamonix in the French Alps, gave us another high altitude environment to test these pants in. At 4800m they were a pleasure to wear, very comfy, hard wearing even with crampons on and able to be worn between +28°C and -15°C on the summit.

All round these are a fantastic pair, ideal for all mountain activities from climbing through to rescue and hill walking. The one drawback we found is that the sizing is a little bit hit and miss. They are very long in the leg and most team members have dropped at least one if not two sizes! (So for most it’s been the quickest way to drop a size ever!) Coat is around the £30 mark, however Keela have a special price for MRTs. For further details contact them via www.keela.co.uk

A personal view from Alan Woodhead Bowland Pennine MRT MRTRO Officer Equipment

So... how much time do you spend on mountain rescue?

Mike France dares do the sums...

Over the years so many people have asked me that question. I have a fair idea how much time I spend on training and incidents but, as a team leader, Peak District chairman and, this last year, National Fundraising chairman, I have no idea just how much time I spend doing mountain rescue.

So... how much time do you spend on mountain rescue?

Mike France dares do the sums...

Over the years so many people have asked me that question. I have a fair idea how much time I spend on training and incidents but, as a team leader, Peak District chairman and, this last year, National Fundraising chairman, I have no idea just how much time is taken up with admin, meetings and team training.

So going back to last Christmas, when I was given a desk top diary, I decided to record all the time I spend going to meetings and doing admin for mountain rescue. I put the diary on my desk at work so, whilst waiting for the PC to load and emails to come in, I have been logging the hours spent and mileage done.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>MR HRS</th>
<th>TOTAL MR HOURS</th>
<th>MR MILES</th>
<th>TOTAL MR MILES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountain</td>
<td>DEC</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMBR</td>
<td>NOV</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRTRO</td>
<td>DEC</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR</td>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRTRO</td>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR</td>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRTRO</td>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMD</td>
<td>FEB</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRTRO</td>
<td>FEB</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR</td>
<td>FEB</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRTRO</td>
<td>MAR</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR</td>
<td>MAR</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRTRO</td>
<td>MAR</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR</td>
<td>MAR</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRTRO</td>
<td>MAR</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR</td>
<td>MAR</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRTRO</td>
<td>DEC</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I know many of you will be doing just the same and, in some cases, many more hours and miles. I am one of 3500 MR members in England and Wales. If you look at my MR admin, meeting and training hours and then start adding all our hours together plus the ones God produces for our incidents, the volunteering hours given by our services are astounding.

If you decide to do the same (it’s a good little exercise), keep the diary at work because if our partners ever find out just how much time we spend doing mountain rescue, two things might happen. We’d all be single or there would no longer be a mountain rescue service in England and Wales!

The Emergency Services Show 2007

The second Emergency Services Show took place at the end of November at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire. Twice the size of last year, this unique exhibition and conference took the industry by storm – attracting double the number of visitors – but exhibitors commented on the quality of the visitors as well as the quantity.

Bruce Mann, head of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, was the keynote speaker at the Conference on 29 November, and discussed Preparedness and Response. Here he outlines the reasons he felt it important to be a part of event.

The Show is an excellent opportunity to bring people together from across the civil protection community. And that matters because effective multi-agency co-operation – people knowing and understanding what partners can contribute in preparedness planning and response – is essential in preparing for and managing complex emergencies. So the show provides an ideal forum where we can learn from each other whether from the platform, over a cup of tea or in the bar!

The aim of the show was to provide visitors, exhibitors and delegates alike with an exclusive chance to network, share information, build relationships and as sourcing the latest industry products and technology.

The conference – ‘Improving Emergency Response’ – was the culmination of an extraordinary year for the UK’s emergency services, one in which the necessity for an effective multi-agency response was tested to the limit in very different situations.

It provided the opportunity to review some of the key aspects of the year, from the flooding to the Litvinenko poisoning. The programme also looked ahead, from meeting the challenges of the 2012 Olympics, to finding out about organisations such as the National Recovery Working Group and the Government Decontamination Services.

The exhibition was a complete cross section of new products, from the very latest IT for the industry to some fascinating new innovations, such as the 28 stone bariatric training dummy from Ruth Lee Ltd. 2000 visitors were greeted by a wide range of emergency service vehicles parked outside the entrance. These ranged from the impressive 26 tonnes Major Foam Vehicle from the Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation to the new P3 Treatment and Transportation Vehicle from the British Red Cross. Tony Thompson, Head of UK Emergency Response & Resilience, British Red Cross commented, ‘We made a lot of new contacts and renewed many old friendships… over 700 different people visited our display’.

Stoneleigh Park proved the ideal venue for such an event, enabling live rescue demonstrations to take place from Lifficks Medical as well as a live car fire to demonstrate the performance of the new Firexpress Fire Bike from Emergency Technologies Ltd. By the end of the two days, almost all a hall the exhibitors had booked for next year. For details of The Emergency Services Show 2008, please contact David Brown on 01273 463033 or email davidbrown@mmmpublications.co.uk

The show offers a fantastic opportunity to meet and network with professionals from across the civil protection community on a face-to-face basis. It is the key event of the year in which you can find products, services and ideas to enhance the way you work and address future challenges.

The show is the perfect platform to view the latest technology and help you answer questions about your products and services. This is an ideal forum to learn from each other, whether from the platform, over a cup of tea or in the bar!

Alan Woodhead Bowland Pennine MRT
Peli's range of professional torches has an unrivalled reputation for quality and durability, and the number and variety of models offered has grown year on year over the last two decades. Peli have utilised new technology, particularly LEDs, and launched an innovation in LED torches. Recoil LED® technology directs the light back into the reflector to focus it into an impressive white, collimated beam to rival conventional torches but with the durability and efficiency of LED. Using LEDs gives improved battery performance and there's no need to replace the lamp module.

Peli have recently launched a Glow in the Dark series of photoluminescent torches, which are ideal for emergency situations or finding a lost torch in the dark. The use of polymer resin for the torch body and the inventive construction of Peli torches has made the models available lightweight and compact, designed specifically for emergency services and first responders.

Peli's range of professional torches have an unrivalled reputation for quality and durability, and the number and variety of models offered has grown year on year over the last two decades. Peli have utilised new technology, particularly LEDs, and launched an innovation in LED torches. Recoil LED® technology directs the light back into the reflector to focus it into an impressive white, collimated beam to rival conventional torches but with the durability and efficiency of LED. Using LEDs gives improved battery performance and there's no need to replace the lamp module.

Peli have recently launched a Glow in the Dark series of photoluminescent torches, which are ideal for emergency situations or finding a lost torch in the dark. The use of polymer resin for the torch body and the inventive construction of Peli torches has made the models available lightweight and compact, designed specifically for emergency services and first responders.

Peli's range of professional torches has an unrivalled reputation for quality and durability, and the number and variety of models offered has grown year on year over the last two decades. Peli have utilised new technology, particularly LEDs, and launched an innovation in LED torches. Recoil LED® technology directs the light back into the reflector to focus it into an impressive white, collimated beam to rival conventional torches but with the durability and efficiency of LED. Using LEDs gives improved battery performance and there's no need to replace the lamp module.

Peli have recently launched a Glow in the Dark series of photoluminescent torches, which are ideal for emergency situations or finding a lost torch in the dark. The use of polymer resin for the torch body and the inventive construction of Peli torches has made the models available lightweight and compact, designed specifically for emergency services and first responders.

Fors more details go to pelliproducts.co.uk or call 01457 869999

Safet y and visibility around cordoned-off areas is being drastically improved following the introduction of ReflexRope, a groundbreaking new reflective rope from leading vehicle warning equipment supplier, Venta UK. Incorporating a retro-reflective material, the innovative ReflexRope literally lights up when light from a vehicle’s headlights or a torch shines on it.

Clearly defining the scene of a breakdown or accident, the ReflexRope makes an ideal barrier to protect vehicles and people on the roadside and is perfect for corraling and managing people at the scene of an incident. The ReflexRope is also suitable for marine environments, at public events and in public areas, temporary car parks and camping sites where it can be provide people with a safe, visible walkway instead of a series of obstacles and hazards that could lead to a trip or fall.

Police, fire service, airports, rail and traffic management organisations have successfully trialed the rope, which is available in two sizes but can be manufactured to any dimension. The 15mm diameter 4.5 metre ReflexRope is fitted with cone loops, whilst the 15mm diameter 4.5 metre ReflexRope has magnets for attaching to metal surfaces and also comes with cone loops for using in conjunction with standard road cones.

Highly visible, due to the reflective tiny glass beads that bounce light directly back to the source, the 15mm ReflexRope can be seen in car headlights up to half a mile away. Easily stowed away until required, the ReflexRope is ideal for emergency services and vehicle recovery operators providing them with an additional safety device for warning other road users of a hazard.

ReflexRope is already proving to be a popular addition to Venta’s expanding product range of safety equipment, which includes beacons, strobe light heads and standalone messaging systems. The company is also a specialist in the latest LED lighting offering a range of grilles and covert lights and fully flexible lightbars. For further information email sales@ventauk.com

Peli Torches - 20 years of product development

Safety and visibility around cordoned-off areas is being drastically improved following the introduction of ReflexRope, a groundbreaking new reflective rope from leading vehicle warning equipment supplier, Venta UK. Incorporating a retro-reflective material, the innovative ReflexRope literally lights up when light from a vehicle’s headlights or a torch shines on it.

Clearly defining the scene of a breakdown or accident, the ReflexRope makes an ideal barrier to protect vehicles and people on the roadside and is perfect for corraling and managing people at the scene of an incident. The ReflexRope is also suitable for marine environments, at public events and in public areas, temporary car parks and camping sites where it can be provide people with a safe, visible walkway instead of a series of obstacles and hazards that could lead to a trip or fall.

Police, fire service, airports, rail and traffic management organisations have successfully trialed the rope, which is available in two sizes but can be manufactured to any dimension. The 15mm diameter 4.5 metre ReflexRope is fitted with cone loops, whilst the 15mm diameter 4.5 metre ReflexRope has magnets for attaching to metal surfaces and also comes with cone loops for using in conjunction with standard road cones.

Highly visible, due to the reflective tiny glass beads that bounce light directly back to the source, the 15mm ReflexRope can be seen in car headlights up to half a mile away. Easily stowed away until required, the ReflexRope is ideal for emergency services and vehicle recovery operators providing them with an additional safety device for warning other road users of a hazard.

ReflexRope is already proving to be a popular addition to Venta’s expanding product range of safety equipment, which includes beacons, strobe light heads and standalone messaging systems. The company is also a specialist in the latest LED lighting offering a range of grilles and covert lights and fully flexible lightbars. For further information email sales@ventauk.com

ReflexRope from Venta helps increase safety for vehicles and people

Peli launch new glow in the dark versions of their most popular torch models. The torch head is made from a photoluminescent material that absorbs light and will emit a bright glow in darkness, even after the light is switched off. Ideal for emergency situations, industrial use or simply to find your torch in the dark. Peli professional torches - go with the glow.

PELI PRODUCTS (UK) LTD.
Tel: 01457 869999
www.peliproducts.co.uk
A perfect search for a missing person should, amongst the following qualities:–

Initial Response

There should be a prompt, objective, template-based assessment of the urgency of the situation on the first report of a missing person by someone trained and experienced in missing person behaviour. If the assessment is rapid and in an appropriate manner a search then should be a prompt and effective initial response consisting of the call out, response, rear,base control, travel, arrival, set up and deployment of sufficient search resources. The initial response should use proven basic tactics of containment, hasty teams, investigation and planning and there should be an early involvement of at least one trained, experienced and active search planner. There should be an initial concentration on tasks (hasty teams) and later on resources and process. The start of every incident can be chaotic but the crucial factor is how each new team is managed so that all the available equipment and staff are working together.

Leadership

There should be a clear and decisive assumption of the leadership role in the search and this role needs to be occupied at all times during the search. There should be no ambiguity of command – this is a fundamental weakness in poor searches. There should be a continuous police presence in base and at the very least a designated officer for the Search Commander to contact if necessary. The Search Commander should be decisive but delegating, facilitative and consultative. They should not be afraid to delegate. They must develop an understanding of the command levels, the role of the ‘command’ as an entity, what they are accountable for, whom they are accountable to, what is required from everyone and whom they should be reporting to

Planning

If a search fails into the following day and beyond, the search should aim for the following qualities.–

Management

There must be a management system of some sort to ensure the right areas are searched at the right time by the right resources who are then accounted for, collected, debriefed and fed. This is not simply a case of having good leadership; we need good management systems also.

Incident Command Roles

While a search does not need to have a management system (the ‘three people in a van’ model does work for most situations), there are certain tasks that must be considered. The American Incident Command System has the advantage of separating task from rank so that it can be applied to volunteer and/or multi-agency teams. It provides for the roles of Incident Command, Operations, Planning, Investigation, Logistics, Comms and others. These headings can act as a prompt for an incident commander with no staff or can serve as the basis for a multi-agency incident management system. My team has successfully used this system in both small and large searches involving several hundred people and several agencies.

In my opinion, the early consideration of the Incident Control System and its roles is vital in a search which looks as if it is going to last beyond a simple operation of 48-6 hours. Even if no formal management system is adopted, the crucial functions of Incident Command, Operations (What is happening now?), Investigation (What happened?), Plans (What will we do in the next 24 hours? ) and Operational periods (When are we going to do it with?) must be carried out. They can be combined or detailed out but they must be done.

While an investigation of the circumstances of a disappearance is a possible matter in the case of any suspicious circumstances, the Investigation role needs to be carried out in all other searches. An incident commander, then the senior officer in position etc is vital to focus the search plans according to the Planning Functions. Again and again vital pieces of information found

investigation have made a very significant difference to a search.

The Incident Commander and/or Logistics staff must have an in-depth knowledge of all local statutory and volunteer resources and issues relating to their use. There is no better way to annoy a specialist than to deploy them incorrectly or ineffectively. In a perfect world, the local resources, both statutory and volunteer, would arrive on scene knowing and trusting each other already.

Trained Staff

Staff for a search involves not only trained field searchers and party leaders, first responders and comms personnel; we also need trained search base personnel. The Incident Commander must have a trained and experienced staff working with them. A rough rule of thumb of one base person for each unit in the field is useful. These staff should be trained in the ICS roles and ideally should have participated in a major multi-agency training exercise before. They should be open to multi-agency working.

The field searchers and their party leaders need to be ‘clue conscious’ so they are searching not only for the person but also for any trace of their passage. Immediate and effective searches is a good plan and has been used in some cases, but it is not always possible. As long as the search continues, no person should be left behind. If a search continues for any time, it is vital to think ‘they may still be there’ and search as if the search is to last for several days. The searchers need to be trained in the ‘vital six’ areas of search.

A search plan be ready for groups as they arrive and large searches involving several hundred people from a helpless and frightened level to that of a group sufficiently informed to do something useful and to feel useful. This is not a simple, but effective ‘Code Adam’ protocol used in large commercial shops in the UK. It has worked in two wheelie crates in accordance with an EU emergency office model. If a voluntary team can do it, why cannot other agencies? Mind you, having a mobile multi-agency office, as agencies may have, does not substitute for proper inter-agency relationship or an integrated command system and adequate inter-agency communications.

Standard Operating Procedures

We can assume, having seen it happen, that a major search, especially one dealing with a vulnerable elderly person or a child, can result in a major media presence. We can also assume that large numbers of unsolicited volunteers will converge on the search to help.

Nothing annoys searchers so much as standing about in the morning waiting to be told what to do. It makes the search management look very bad.

A search is a task-oriented action – find the person! However without good process, other factors can get in the way. These processes should not be alien to the searchers, it should be an ‘integrated team’ and it should be clear of what is required of the searchers and their leaders to achieve a major search. It is vital to have a list of them and their resources at each county council office. Are they known? Local organisations may be aware of them. Various adequate base buildings in each county with welfare facilities, control rooms, CCTV, search management base and stores etc but when was the last time a major search was based there? All too often resources and relationships are only tried out when a major search occurs but could we not do some of the work in advance? Searches also need basic office requirements such as photocopier, scanning, internet, etc. My team carries a complete set of office equipment pre-packed in to known multi-agency situations in Ireland with an EU emergency office model. If a voluntary team can do it, why cannot other agencies? Mind you, having a mobile multi-agency office, as agencies may have, does not substitute for proper inter-agency relationship or an integrated command system and adequate inter-agency communications.

We should also have, in the context of search, pre-set plans to deal with a ‘find’, the recovery, appropriate and tactful liaison with the family and friends, presentation of the incident including specific codes as well as a planned search step-down policy. Step-down procedures should include the collection of ‘lessons learnt’ data, collected on a ‘ho-fair’ basis and disseminated to senior ICS staff and agency reps later as well as going to a national database. We should have the collection of all data, maps, papers and other records for a Search Record File and later analysis but this is happening? Where are the contributions from agencies that happen every year in these islands? Are we learning from our experiences? Do we know what we are about? I believe that this is not the case. They are all being done throughout the UK. I would much prefer to be told I was ignorant rather than right.

In Ireland we have a de-facto national standard incident search plan, but there are many gaps, especially the lack of training for all involved. A training cycle of planning, search, systematic debriefing and reviewing the results to form an objective scientific basis for our next responses. It is especially vital that the search already exist but we are not aware of them. Both state and voluntary bodies have members, vehicles and bases but is there a comprehensive list of all them and their resources at each county council office? Local organisations may be aware of them. Various adequate base buildings in each county with welfare facilities, control rooms, CCTV, search management base and stores etc but when was the last time a major search was based there? All too often resources and relationships are only tried out when a major search occurs but could we not do some of the work in advance? Searches also need basic office requirements such as photocopier, scanning, internet, etc. My team carries a complete set of office equipment pre-packed in to known multi-agency situations in Ireland with an EU emergency office model. If a voluntary team can do it, why cannot other agencies? Mind you, having a mobile multi-agency office, as agencies may have, does not substitute for proper inter-agency relationship or an integrated command system and adequate inter-agency communications.

Standard Operating Procedures

We can assume, having seen it happen, that a major search, especially one dealing with a vulnerable elderly person or a child, can result in a major media presence. We can also assume that large numbers of unsolicited volunteers will converge on the search to help.

Failure to deal with an uncontrolled volunteer response is one of the fundamental errors in a bad search. Leaders must have the hard task of all those helping on the search for police information and control to control the large numbers of volunteers. They may not be fit, or have food and water and, as my team found out in a recent case, they may not be fit for the job or even if they are fit and able they may not be fit for us. These are the people who turned up for a search but it is not easy to control. Volunteers need a plan and protocol and training of your own members.
The can that heats itself!
Operational Support Ltd

No heat, No power, the nearest takeaway is miles away, more than likely shut - and you have people who need a hot meal.

What can you do?

"Operational Support’s pride has been to supply the UK emergency services for more than 30 years."

Operational Support Ltd

7 Carnwood Road Industrial Units, Chesterfield Trading Estate, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 9QB

Tel:01246 268988 www.hotcan.com

News from DMM

Perhaps the biggest news here at DMM has been the massive investment we have made in plant and machinery over the last few months. We’ve installed eight new forging presses equipped with laser guards which make operation easier and also substantially faster. Then, if you’ve visited our website recently, you’ll have seen the new forging press we have purchased and are installing as I write this article – the largest forging press we have bought to date. It will offer several advantages, not least making forging our Rebel and Anarchist Ice Tools a lot easier and quicker. At 26 tons it requires specialist installation and preparation, but this investment further demonstrates our commitment to maintaining our manufacturing base here in Clanbreck, North Wales.

New products require considerable commitment in terms of time and money and we have always made this commitment since the company’s birth in the early 80s. Nothing has changed from those early days and our desire to make the best climbing equipment possible, and make it here in Wales, remains as firm as ever.

New products arriving very soon in the new year are the Offsetnuts, locking version of the Revolver and new harnesses. For more information about our products please visit www.dmmwales.com

The Oxtail Bomb by John Blashford D Snell

Around 1991-93, I was writing an article on expedition rations and was sent some samples of a self-heating meal called Hotcan by Operational Support Ltd. These reminded me of some far we had in the army in the 1950s with heating soups. Whilst serving overseas, these were very popular on night patrols when we avoided lighting fires that would give away our position.

On one patrol, we came across a meeting of rebellious villagers in a coffee shop. Being unarmed, they were not an immediate threat but, as they were making insulting remarks about HM The Queen and Britain in general, we decided to teach them a lesson. One of the soldiers crept round to the front of the shop clutching a Bren light machine gun filled with blank ammunition. Then, lighting the fuse on the self heating tin, but not puncturing the lid, dropped it through a window. Excited with political rhetoric, the villagers took a few moments to spot the spluttering can rolling across the floor. Suddenly, one screamed ‘Bombar’ and there was a mad rush for the door. Blasting out the mob met a sapper bringing short bursts of blank ammunition from his Bren gun. Those at the back pressed back the coffee shop whilst those at the back pressed forward. Amidst the chaos, the tin exploded, showing all in oral tin. We retreated quickly into the darkness.

Perhaps it is fortunate that the Hotcan meals do not operate in this way and only use the mixture of two chemicals to heat the meal.

Recently, I was demonstrating expedition and emergency rations to some young people and showed them an old tin of Hotcan Irish Stew that had survived 15 years of heat, cold and rough handling in our store. ‘Let’s try it!’ they cried.

So we did. Although it took about 15 minutes to heat up, the contents were absolutely delicious. I wrote to the company and told them I had never heard of a 15 year old tin being tested with such good results.

In 8-12 minutes. The price is very reasonable too. They are certainly ideal for emergency rations and use at sea when it is too rough to cook! (For contact details, see ad on facing page.)

Ensure your visibility in total darkness with the Light Harness

Used in conjunction with your own certified safety garments the Light Harness will ensure you are seen, no matter where in the world you are in a dark, shady or dense forest. Fully certified under EEC legislation, it is designed and patented by Scottish entrepreneur Jack McGarry, an aircraft engineer with many years experience and based on the same principle as the emergency floor lighting of passenger aircraft. When an emergency evacuation of the aircraft is required, the lighting system guides passengers to the emergency exits even in severely restricted visibility. The Light Harness clearly shows that a very high percentage of people who perish on the mountains and hills do so because they cannot be found before the cost claims them. And the added irony is that the coloured clothing worn by many outdoor enthusiasts often make them less visible than the light harness man is fully considered into the environment they are enjoying.

Technical data:

Visible range: 1 mile. (1.6 KM) in total darkness. Can it be seen from 360°? Yes.

Battery life: 240 hours (on flashing mode). Will it work submerged in water? Yes.

Submerged life: 5 hours. At sea affected by altitude, no. It is affected by temperature: No.

If you need any further help, please do not hesitate to get in touch.
email jack@o-u-products.com or take a look at the website www.o-u-products.co.uk

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

strategy for data collection and analysis.
-Systematically collect, in a no-blame culture, the ‘lessons learnt’ from searches to inform future searches.
-Ensure that skilled, experienced and active search planners are easily available to any search.

These aims are, in my personal opinion, what we need to do in my country. Are any of them applicable to yours?

Self-Examination

Having written the above article in the comfort of my warm study, I had to face the reality of being initial incident commander some weeks after it was published. I realised I had the interesting opportunity of marking myself against my own standards. Being as objective as I could, I give myself a high pass but some things were not done. The initial search analysis was done in my head, not on paper, a common fault of the first busy half hour. As always, the scene around the car had been well visited by the time the question of site preservation came up. Due to the simple issue of volunteer response, some of those who occupied ICS roles in base had not done so before and found it a steep learning curve.

It is a testimony to the quality of our team’s members that not only did they do very well but they have since demanded more training because they want to do it again!

The volunteer response was perfectly controlled but it can be hard to do so fully in the initial phase and even more so when you are beyond. To be positive, within a short time of team members arriving, we had people out searching the obvious points. We had very good searchers/policie liaison, even with the distraction of a nearby RDTA, and very good response from other volunteer organisations. Investigation and planning functions were set up within two hours and we had a full paper-based record of what had been searched, and by whom, to inform the following day’s search.

Finally, and most importantly, the casualty was found alive the next day.

Conclusion

No search is perfect. Some people are never found or are only found weeks, months or years after they disappear. But we can always do better. We can search and manage more efficiently and effectively. But what changes do we need to make to do so?

Pat Holland is a member of a mountain rescue team and a trained and active search planner. However, the views in this article are entirely his own and are not expressed on behalf of his team or any other organisation. He would like to thank those who commented on drafts of this article. Any comments please, send to pat.holland@southtippcoco.ie

PAGE 39
What we've already generated. Some may suggest that by offering up this template, I've taken the hard work out of fundraising, but I don't think so. It is not without its advantages. First of all, it is a tested, in the hope of getting a reciprocal suggestions which may bolster

Step 1 Get your managing committee to speculate circa £250 on sending you on a two day fundraising awareness course run by Mark Butler Associates. Call 0191 239 7004 or email markbutcher@blueyonder.co.uk (Best £200 you ever invested)

Step 2 Establish your team’s board of directors. Each director will have a role in a committee or project steering group. The group will be responsible for making decisions, but the decisions will be made by the committee.

Step 3 Determine where your current funds are generated from, set against the BTSJ protocol. Develop a strategy on how you can maximise the funds generation from this source before moving on to looking at the key areas of your service.

Step 4 Produce a priced team shopping list of day-to-day and project related items which you are in need of or wish for.

Step 5 Produce an annual appeal which is to be circulated to all addresses on your database. Ours has 600+ names on it, so 1000 leaflets are produced, and the balance is made up by leaflets sent by members who have contributed to the campaign.

Step 6 Statutory Bodies. If you’re looking for cash from these sources to fund your daily running costs, buy-in from your local statutory bodies, such organisations will generally support fundraising. For example, the NHS.

Seven steps to raising more funds

Paul Durham, Bowland Pennine MRT on putting more pennies in the pot

A
n
teams co-operate with their neighbours near and far on different aspects of our service. Exchanging ideas on matters such as casualty care, syllabuses, rigging for rescue, training… the list goes on. The most fundamental element each and everyone of us offers in the name of the service is our selflessness, determination and social conscience to help others in need. The second most important element is the funds to deliver the service.

I took over our team’s fundraising in 2001, after realising my dog’s legs and his mobility may have been hampered away in the wilderness blindly for years. I cannot recommend this guy enough.

Paul Durham, Bowland Pennine MRT on putting more pennies in the pot

The first appeal raised £15,000 against a cost of £900 to print, stamps and envelopes. Good return on investment.
Climbing dead in the water!

Bob Sharp on a sport fast losing its grip

I was introduced to climbing in my late 20s – rather late in life. I lived within a mile of one of Scotland’s most famous roadside crags without even knowing it. When I met people I thought, I could never have known. I suddenly found a sport I was good at and enjoyed immensely. In those days the crags used to brim with people – solo climbers, seasoned teams, families, youth groups and others. Craigmore crag was unusual in its rock was basalt – a bit like gritstone. It offered a different kind of climbing to other local rocks – more stimulus and thruthy in comparison to the routes run on mica schist. Some evenings, before the crags used to brim with people – solo climbers, I’ve also added a lineartrend to show more clearly the direction of change. I should add, to help clarify matters, there is anecdotalevidence which points to the decline in those who climb and a rise of sports and activities? One explanation is that the overall number of incidents in Scotland has stabilised since 1990. In fact, the trend is slightly downward. At the present time, there are just over 300 mountaineering incidents in Scotland each year. The graph shows a clear pattern. The number of hillwalking incidents has increased over the ten year period, whilst the number of rock climbing and snow/climbing incidents has decreased. There’s an almost perfect mirror image between the two lines. I stumbled upon this finding as part of a research project into Scottish mountain incidents. The project gives a few clues to some facts. Have a look at the accompanying graph. It shows how the number of incidents has increased over the ten year period there are increases in the number of inexperienced people who are in more danger. The number of equipment related incidents and increases in the number of people who are lost or find their way. So, what’s happened to climbing? Is climbing simply less popular than it once was? Are people finding adventures in other sports and activities? One explanation is that participation apart from the annual household survey carried out for sportscotland. This survey assesses how many people hillwalk or climb each month but it doesn’t differentiate between the two. However, as reported earlier, there is anecdotal evidence which points to the decline in those who climb and a rise of the numbers hillwalking. Rescue work for several teams has swung towards the touristically group/safe/harmless sectors and away from traditional rescues. This is reflected in the tally of non-mountaineering incidents which has risen sharply in recent years. What about the winter climbers? It’s a fair bet that many are now heading for the Ice Factor® near Fort William as the warmer weather in Scotland and the absence of snow and ice has limited winter climbing to a very brief time period. It’s worth noting that the spate of fatal incidents in the Cairngorms last winter reflects attempts to climb when the snow and ice conditions were marginal. But there is a more disturbing factor at play here and it’s all related to the nay-say state in which we now live. It seems everyone and everything is pleasingly wrapped up in cotton wool. Life is seen to be constructed around the desire to reduce risks, avoid accidents and eradicate the risk of hardship or effort. The net result is we all risk aversity, ahead of blame, apprehensive of uncertainty and overly concerned about litigation. Children and young people especially are no longer allowed to take risks and whatever environment they enter is designed to be sterile and safe. Thus, playing outside with friends and walking to school alone are treated by many parents with some concern. It has recently been reported (by the Children’s Society) that children’s freedom to play unsupervised with friends is being curtailed by adult anxiety. Outdoor activities are deemed to be highly dangerous and many school based outdoor programmes have been abandoned on heavy risk assessed their whole purpose has been lost. This problem was recognised by the outdoor education sector, long ago and, as a consequence, it established the ‘Campaign for Adventure’. The campaign aims to convince people that it is safe to approach in a spirit of exploration and adventure and to show that ‘chance, unforeseen circumstances and uncertainty are inescapable features of life and that absolute safety is unachievable’. I wonder how many parents of young children would buy into this philosophy? So, how does this affect mountaineering? Mountaineering was bound to suffer because at its very core there is risk, hardship and inconvenience. To meet the challenges central to working hard over a long period. I feel people no longer want to go down this route. They want a quick fix without the hardship or learning and are very happy to don all the expensive gear, head to the nearest icefall and chance their arm with no hint of apprenticeship. The proliferation of climbing guides, maps, instantly weather forecasts and electronic gadgetry, TV programmes and ‘what to wear’ articles in the popular magazines has led to the emergence of the ‘timid mountain climber’. People want, what

Cairngorm Poo Project

Spending the night in a snow hole in the Cairngorms is a popular activity and if there are only a few folk doing it, then it’s not a problem. But with increasing numbers of us enjoying the Scottish winter hills, snow hole sites are becoming an environmental disaster area. The snow melts at the popular sites of Ciste Mheadhoin and Corrie Dhomhain our human impact is altogether apparent. There is lack of good practice to carry off the waste. One problem is the lack of any recognised guidelines. This is reflected in the increasing number of inexperienced people who are lost. By my calculation, if the trends shown in the graph continue, there will be no climbing incidents in Scotland within ten years. In other words, climbing as we know it will have ceased. Rescue teams will have to be content searching for day tripping tourists and other folk far from care homes. For my own team the climb began some years ago. The days we searched for youth groups on expedition or rescued youths on a local route are long gone. OK, this is a bit tongue in cheek but you have to admit things are changing. If each team looked at the profile of its operation over the last two decades, I’m sure they’d see a downturn. The increasing separation of walking/climbing incidents shown in the graph cannot be denied. I believe it has clear implications for the way mountain rescue teams respond and perhaps train. Does this apply to your team? Do you feel the days when people climb are numbered?

*The Ice Factor is the world’s biggest indoor ice wall, situated in Kirchhoven just ten miles from Ben Nevis.
Do you D.A.R.E. work at height without us?

- Height Safety Training
- Tower/Mast Access
- Technical Rope Rescue
- Roof Top Access
- Ladder Safety
- Intervention & Search
- Rescue Equipment

For further details see www.bmg.org.uk
01690 720386 or guiding@bmg.org.uk

CORPORATE EVENTS AND TEAM DEVELOPMENT COURSES
Plus...paintballing, rafting, mountaineering and rock climbing, all in the Yorkshire Dales.
Telephone: 01943 609334
email: info@fire-events.com
www.fire-events.com

GIRL GUIDING UK
Blackland Farm
www.blacklandfarm.org.uk
Activity Centre
TEL: 01342 810493 FAX: 01342 811206
martin.robinson@girlguiding.org.uk

Do you D.A.R.E. work at height without us?

- Height Safety Training
- Tower/Mast Access
- Technical Rope Rescue
- Roof Top Access
- Ladder Safety
- Intervention & Search
- Rescue Equipment

For further details see www.bmg.org.uk
01690 720386 or guiding@bmg.org.uk

CHAMONIX
Two self catered chalets on same road. Both sleep 10.
Fabulous views. Large gardens. Log fire/wood burner.
(Also available long term or for sale.)
For more details see www.chamonixchalet.com
07774 225555

Activities and Outdoor qualifications in the Heart of the Peak District

The University in Buxton offering outdoor qualifications, in the heart of the Peak District National Park. Go to www.derby.ac.uk/buxton for more information or call: 01298 71100

- BA (Hons) Outdoor Activities Management
- Foundation Degree in Outdoor Activity Management
- BA (Hons) Sport and Recreation Management
- BA (Hons) Sports Studies
- HND Sports Studies
- BA Joint Honours Outdoor Recreation with Countryside Management
- Sports Studies
- Adventure Tourism and a range of other subjects

MFC Survival Ltd is one of the world’s leading designers and manufacturers of specialised safety and survival equipment. With over 40 years of experience, the company is renowned for producing the highest quality product and is a current supplier to the Emergency Services in the UK and worldwide.


www.mfcsurvival.com
We specialise in school traversing walls, manufacturing and installation of climbing walls, wall/belaypoint testing, bolt-on installation of climbing walls, made ‘in-house’ in the UK.

www.wagerholds.com

Tim@wagerholds.com
T: 0113 216 0925
Leeds LS13 2RD

www.highpeakuk.net

All-weather notebooks

ALL WEATHER NOTEBOOKS

The books are waterproof, pocket-sized and durable, suitable for light rain and wet conditions. Order direct on 0845 270 3828 or via the online shop at www.alwy.ch.co.uk or from all good stationers.

To advertise call Pat Starkie on
0845 337 4727
e-mail pat@aycen.co.uk

To advertise call Pat Starkie on
0845 337 4727
e-mail pat@aycen.co.uk

Cold, wet and dehydration can reduce performance and impair safety. By fitting a ‘TeaMate’ water boiler, crew can make themselves a cup of tea, coffee or other hot beverage to keep warm and hydrated, therefore maximising concentration and keeping fatigue to a minimum.

- Compact commercial grade throughout.
- Self-contained fully automatic.
- 12v and 24v models available.
- Make up to 9 cups per filling.

Bay Horse Inn
Roughlee, Tel 01282 613683

Open Daily – Food Available
TUESDAY - SATURDAY 12PM - 2PM & 6PM - 9PM
SUNDAY 12PM - 6PM

proprietors: Jeff and Nicola Noonan

AULTGUISH INN and BUNKHOUSE
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Superbly situated for easy access to over 30 Munros and Corbetts including the Famnish, An Teallach, Binnein Dearg and Ben Wyvis.

Prices from £17.50 pp.
All prices include linen and breakfast.

AULTGUISH INN
BUNKHOUSE

Instructor Training Course

Level Two Training & Assessment
Level One Sustainable Development
Weekly wage, accommodation and full board will be provided.
Training will be provided at our activity site located in Wiry Lancashire. Applicants must be 18 years old. Send CV to Mike Mooney, Cliffe Farm Activity Centre, Wood Lane, Middlesbrough, L60 2RL.
MORE PULL

What could be stronger than a Land Rover Defender? The New 2007 Defender. With a tenacious new 2.4 litre diesel engine, it puts a bit more muscle on the same tough bones. And with more refinement too, it's a formidable contender.

- All new 2.4 common rail diesel engine
- 20% increase in torque*
- All new 6-speed manual gearbox
- All new integrated facia design
- All new heating and ventilation system
- Up to 3,500kg towing capacity

For more information or to book a test drive, call us today.

Copley Land Rover
Wakefield Road, Copley, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 0UA
Tel: (01422) 383340  Fax: (01422) 320015
e: salesmanager@landrover Halifax.co.uk  www.copleylandrover.co.uk

NEW 2007 DEFENDER

GO BEYOND

Range of fuel consumption figures for New 2007 Defender: mpg (l/100km); Urban 21.8 (13.5) - 25.8 (11.3); extra urban 33.7 (9.6) - 39.2 (8.1) and combined 28.3 (10.0) - 25.7 (11.0). CO₂ emissions 295 - 285g/km.

*All Land Rover vehicles from 2007 model year include an optional CD. Offset Package which is based on offsetting the CO₂ produced by a vehicle over 45,000 miles. Please visit www.landrover.co.uk/sustainability for further information. *Comparing to 2006MY TDI Defender.