



# Weber County Sheriff

## Search and Rescue Newsletter



December 2010

### TRAINING CALENDAR 2010

WCSSAR meetings are held in the main WCSO building.

#### DECEMBER

- 07 Hep. B Shots, 6:30 pm, WCSO ..... *Robyn*
- 07 Meeting: 7 pm, Winter Meeting and Hypothermia ..... *Gary S.*
- 11 Sat. Training: Beacon search at Wolf Creek, 9 am ..... *Mike F.*

#### 2011

#### JANUARY

- 04 Meeting: 7 pm, Avalanche, Craig Gordon ..... *Bryan B.*
- 08 Sat. Training: Avalanche, Craig Gordon ..... *Bryan B.*
- 13 Crater Dive, 4 pm ..... *Kevin T.*

#### FEBRUARY

- 01 Meeting: 7 pm, Incident Command class ..... *Lance P.*
- 05 Sat. Training: Cancelled, please plan on attending Winter Survival Seminar ..... *Sgt. Brandon T.*
- 12 Snowmobile ride with Bret Rasmussen ..... *Gary S.*
- 25-27 Winter Survival Seminar & Mock Search ..... *Sgt. Brandon T.*

#### MARCH

- 01 Meeting: 7 pm, Ice Safety ..... *Rick G.*
- 05 Sat. Training: Ice Dive ..... *Rick G.*

#### APRIL

- 05 Meeting: 7 pm, Swiftwater ..... *Rick G.*
- 09 Sat. Training: Swiftwater ..... *Rick G.*

#### MAY

- 03 Meeting: 7 pm, K9 ..... *Bryan B.*
- 07 Sat. Training: K9 ..... *Bryan B.*

#### JUNE

- 07 Meeting: 7 pm, MSAR ..... *Allen M.*
- 11 Sat. Training: MSAR ..... *Allen M.*

#### JULY

- 05 Meeting: 7 pm, Motorcycle/ATV and Logistics ..... *Lyman S./Stark J.*
- 09 Sat. Training: Motorcycle/ATV and Logistics ..... *Lyman S./Stark J.*

#### AUGUST

- Weber County Fair Climb Wall ..... *Sgt. Brandon T.*

### EVENTS CALENDAR

#### 2011

#### JANUARY

- 08-09 MRA Winter Meeting, pre-registration required ..... *John S.*

#### JUNE

- 16-19 MRA Conf., Eagle, CO ..... *John S.*

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WCSSAR web site: <http://webersar.org>  
 WebMaster Jared Randall

WEBER Co. SEARCH AND RESCUE IS A MEMBER OF:

**MRA, NASAR, UTAH SAR**  
**DISPATCH 629-8221**

All numbers above—area code 801 unless noted.

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2010 CALLOUTS

It was a quiet month.

**11/22/10** Received a call from a guy that was lost out by Ogden Bay. Dave C. talked to him on the phone and figured out he was about a mile from his vehicle. He was able to get on the trail and find his way back. No call out was needed.



The Saturday training for November was a gathering at the WCSO for breakfast, a short meeting and then equipment maintenance. Photos by Cor. Mark Horton.

### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



The weather held out nicely for these activities and it was a perfect time to button up the summer equipment and start getting our winter gear ready. There is still a lot that needs to be done on the snowcats. Stay tuned for work details.

### MEMBERS NEWS, ISSUES AND UPDATES

We have three new members this month **Tim Speicher, Brent Fresz** and **Will O'Blennis**. Please take the time at the next meeting to welcome them to the team. Our condolences go out to Don O., Steve E. and Sheri on the recent loss of their loved ones.

### PREVIOUS TRAINING/MEETING/ACTIVITY REPORTS

**2010 Utah Snow and Avalanche Workshop (USAW)**—On November 6, 2010, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Utah Snow and Avalanche Workshop was held in Salt Lake City. WCSAR had 12 members attend this year (we have participated in this workshop all three years now). The program is modeled on the ISSW (International Snow Science Workshop) and is a mixture of current research, accident reports, danger mitigation, and rescue techniques regarding avalanches. At USAW the morning is reserved exclusively for avalanche professionals such as ski patrollers, SAR team members, avalanche forecasters, and avalanche researchers. After an awesome (all vegetarian) lunch the afternoon session opens up to the general public who recreate in avalanche terrain.

This year's morning session included talks on safety (including some accident reviews) for personnel who travel and work in avalanche prone areas. There were two talks on "side-country" travel, i.e., areas that are accessible by in-bounds lifts at resorts but where the clients ski out-of-bounds to find fresh powder. For WCSAR this would be primarily the terrain surrounding Snowbasin and Powder Mountain.

One interesting science result that was reported is the current thinking on how avalanches are released. Previously the thinking was that a trigger (skier, snowmobile, snowboarder, etc.) cracked the slab which then broke free on the weak layer and slid. Current thinking is that the trigger makes the weak layer collapse thus causing the slab to fracture and then it all slides down the mountain.

The afternoon talks ranged from avalanche legislation to dog training to avalanche reporting. One talk was pretty gripping as a group of avalanche survivors told their story of how one member of their team got buried and the others in the party got

tagged but ended up on top. They described their efforts to find their partner and how they successfully found him, dug him out, and revived him (with the help of a local ski patrol) and got him out even though he was pretty banged up.

After the workshop there was a social hour party, although none of our team attended. Overall, it was excellent avalanche training and well worth the time. *Submitted by John S.*

## OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING TRAINING/MEETING/ACTIVITIES

The **December 7<sup>th</sup> first Tuesday WCSSAR meeting is our annual winter meeting.** We're not sure if the parking lot passes for Monte will be available by this meeting, but Sgt. Toll is working on it.

Robyn will also be attending the December meeting to test **Hep B** titers.

The **WBR meeting** is the same night as the December member meeting. Kurt H. will attend to represent WCSSAR. Sgt. Brandon Toll will forward him the information. Kurt will also check on K9 testing with WBR, as it states in the directives.

The **December Saturday training** will be a beacon search, details at the meeting.

**Winter Seminar**—February 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>; We will be using the 2009 schedule as a guide to this year's program. Sgt. Toll will coordinate with a smaller group of people for specific training. Sheri will take care of putting the program together. *(Ha!)* Ideas: a wilderness medical class (by a couple of our newer members), survival psychology, orienteering, raising/lowering, snow anchors, fires (by Kris H.), and a Saturday night search with GPS course and prizes. Oh, yes, Bryan B. wants to dig a snow cave.

## CLIMBING WALL, FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:

Pst...enjoy the quiet...

## CLIMBERS/BACK COUNTRY SKIERS NEWS:

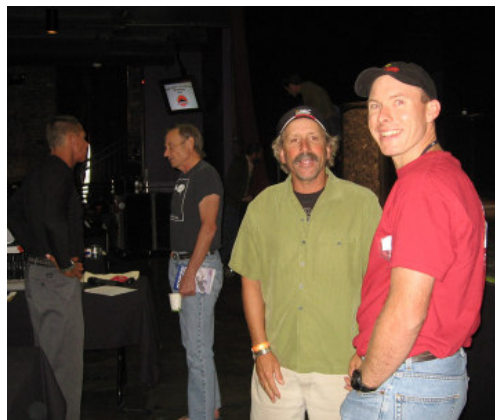
The national **Winter Meeting of the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA)** will be held in West Valley City on January 7-9, 2011. I do not know the agenda yet. Typically, on Friday night there is a reception and activities such as rescue movies, meet-and-greet, etc. On Saturday they usually do long term planning and discussions of national legislation and policy that impacts wilderness SAR. There are often breakout sessions and group discussions about SAR policy. The topic for the day can vary across a large range of SAR issues but usually involves SAR leadership topics in one way or another. Saturday night is much like Friday night and a great way to meet other leaders in volunteer high-angle technical rescue. Sunday is the business meeting where we discuss everything from new teams to education to the MRA budget. Anyone interested in getting a toe hold in at the national level should consider this meeting. If you are interested please contact me ASAP as the registration deadline is December 15. Some years there is a special training on either Sunday or Monday. Last year we spent all day Monday with the Snowbird Ski Patrol doing avalanche control work. It was a very interesting day.

At the **Tuesday night meeting** we will be covering hypothermia and also discussing the annual Winter Seminar. This year the climb team will have several sessions that we'll need to host/run. One of them is a high angle snow rescue using snow anchors and various litters. We'll need to discuss this at the December meeting so we can have all our information ready for Brandon to make the fliers. We will meet our newest member, Tim, and we'll experiment with the new rescue sled. I also want to discuss winter training. *Submitted by John S.*

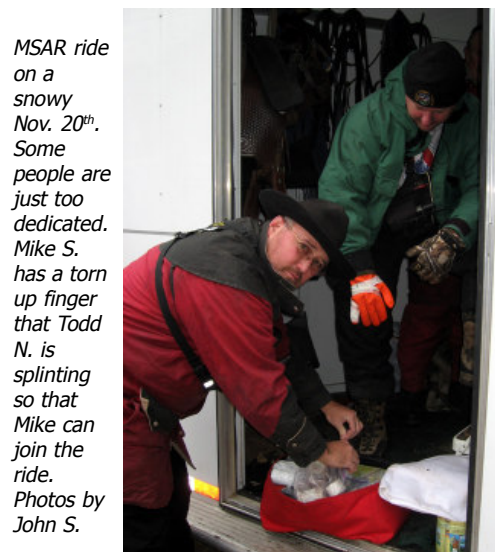
**Donation of a \$218.00 Brooks-Range Pro Rescue Sled**—At the November Wolf Mountain Ski Patrol OEC Refresher, Michael Hoellein (many of you have done your CPR instruction under his watchful eye) donated a backcountry Pro Rescue Sled to our team. This is a highly portable rescue sled that uses a pair of skis to form the frame of the sled. As soon as we have some snow we'll do some practice with it. We'll also play with it at the upcoming meeting. You can see details and images of it at <http://brooks-range.com/Mountaineering-Rescue-Sled-Pro-Rescue-Sled.html>. It does look like something we will want to gain some experience with before we need it on a call out. *Submitted by John S.*



Meanwhile, also on Saturday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, other members of the team attended the Avalanche workshop in Salt Lake City, Photos by John S.



Doug W. did his usual outstanding job with the AV at the Avalanche workshop.



MSAR ride on a snowy Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Some people are just too dedicated. Mike S. has a torn up finger that Todd N. is splinting so that Mike can join the ride. Photos by John S.

The headwaters of the creek that runs past Browning Camp. The water pours out of the mountain side. This is just above the images on p4.





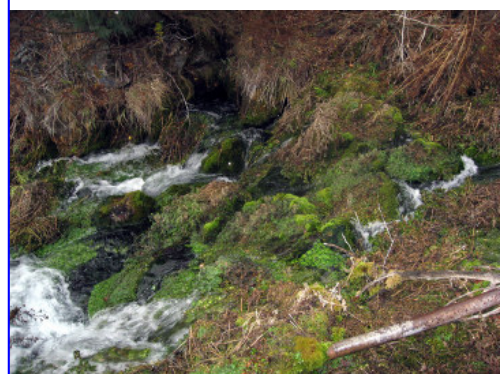
Allan M. and Rocky saddle up after lunch. A large storm system started moving in shortly after lunch.



"Cottonwood Camp" in Wheatgrass Canyon.



Some better views of the springs. Also, a water pipe for the scout camp has an interesting tear.



## DIVE/SWIFTWATER/AIRBOAT NEWS:

**Dive**—Dive Team, I want to Thank everybody for getting our trailer ready for winter. And winter is here. This is a great time to check your gear and get it serviced if needed. We will have an inspection on our gear before our upcoming ICE dive. We will be checking gear at our Tuesday meeting in February. Nobody Dives unless their gear has been checked. (Please bring your updated cert cards or your rescue dive card so we can make a copy to put in your file. I hope you had a Great Thanksgiving and have a Very Merry Christmas. *Submitted by Rick G.*

**Swiftwater Rescue Training**—Weber State University's Outdoor Program contacted me about the possibility of us sending some of our members to a 3-day swiftwater training course. In looking over the course content and instructors it seems like an excellent opportunity for our team. At the November Commander's Meeting we decided that we would probably send at least five members to this training, which will be held locally. A date has not been set, but the target date is in May when the water is running high. The course will be instructed by Rescue 3 International, an organization that is well known for the quality of their courses. *Submitted by John S.*

## K9 NEWS:

**Wilderness K9 Team**—It seems that each month this article is based on activities of one or more of the K9 Teams and minus any real activity, it's just based on the mood I'm in. It's not that there wasn't any activity to report, Jackie and I flew to Idaho for a search and we all went to Rock Springs, but it's December, a time to reflect back on the past year and take pride in your accomplishments and identify the areas that still need work. One thing that I am very proud of is the relationship and confidence that has been established between the K9's and the WCSSAR Team and the Sheriff's office. I believe this has come about because more and more members are getting a chance to see the dogs work.

At the Deer Camp this year, Under Sheriff McCloud came up and walked along as we worked Jackie on a cadaver scenario. Although he had heard how accomplished our team was, he was admittedly impressed once he had a chance to see it in person. Even though we have made improvements in this area, I still feel it needs work and we'll take every opportunity to acquaint those of you that are interested with the capabilities of the K9 Team. May of 2011 has been assigned to the K9 Team and you'll have the opportunity to observe and participate in training activities. Until then, if you have the desire, please feel free to join us. *Submitted by Bryan B.*

## LOGISTICS/DISPATCH NEWS:

Please remember to keep your **SARteams** ([www.sarteam.com](http://www.sarteam.com)) info up-to-date. If you have any questions about how to do this, please send me an email or see me during the first Tuesday team meetings. *Sheri*

## MEDICAL NEWS:

All **OEC** certified team members should be refreshed for this year. Please make sure to bring your completed forms to Steve E.

## MOUNTED SAR NEWS:

Last mounted SAR ride for 2010. Nov. 20, 2010 went to Cottonwood Camp up Wheatgrass. (4 SAR members and 2 family) had lunch and was interested in going to Cassia Spring so we went back and up to Camp Browning and then to the spring. Thanks to Bill Wangsgard for letting us park at the boy scout camp. *Thanks, by Allen M.*

## OHV/MOTORCYCLE NEWS:

Winter has arrived...time to switch to snowmobiles or hibernate.

## WINTER RESCUE/SNOWCAT NEWS:

We have scheduled another **ride with Bret Rasmussen** on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Make sure to put the date on your calendar. Try to attend the winter survival seminar that we are hosting on February 25<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup>. There will be lots of useful information and hands-on workshops. It will be held at the Environmental Center in North Fork. *Submitted by Gary S.*

## PREVENTATIVE SAR/PR News:

Steve E. has agreed to speak to a group of boy scouts on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 @ 7pm. LDS Church on 21<sup>st</sup> St between Jack and Van Buren.

## HEALTH TIPS BY KATHY B. - Strokes

Do Your Homework

In addition to knowing the warning signs of stroke, learn which hospitals close to you are the best equipped to treat stroke. Before an emergency strikes, you can locate a certified stroke care hospital on the American Stroke Association website at [www.strokeassociation.org](http://www.strokeassociation.org).

CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY FOR ANY OF THESE STROKE WARNING SIGNS:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the arm, face, or leg, especially on one side
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, or loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause
- Sudden loss of vision in one or both eyes

Note the time first stroke symptoms appear. If given within three hours of the start of symptoms, clot-busting medication may reduce permanent damage for the most common type of stroke.

Source: American Stroke Association

## FINAL NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

As always, thanks to everyone who contributed to the newsletter, especially all the articles and photos! Special thanks to John S. for articles, photos and proofing.

I know this is a short newsletter, but you may know from the Tweet that my dad passed away on Friday morning. He was a dedicated career soldier and patriotic native son. He was a dad, husband and grandpa, and we will miss him. Thank you to everyone on the team who called, emailed and Facebooked me messages of support. Over the last four months I had requested to be taken off of active duty and will now return to responding to callouts.

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*Yet another view of Cassie Springs; just to the left of the image it is completely dry. At this point the storm started moving in and we headed out.*



On Tuesday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Scott C. and I spent all day at the Morgan County UCAN and AT&T site. They needed a snow-cat ride up there because they couldn't make it with their snowmobiles from the large drifts. They kept getting stuck. We barely made it with 5 guys, equipment and the gas (not diesel) powered snow-cat. The slope was very steep and the drifts were pretty big also. After a couple hours of hard work and overheating the cat, we finally made it. We had plenty of time to let it cool down before the ride down. We had no problems after that. I was worried about getting caught in the storm up there, but looks like the weather man hit the time right on. *Submitted by Sgt. Brandon Toll.*

