

Your Canadian Search and Rescue Magazine

SAR SCENE

Summer/Fall 1999 Volume 9, number 2



ISSUE FEATURES

SAR Venture '99

The Ideal Search

10 Days and 11 Nights
in the Wilderness –
The Lucy Harris Story

SARSCENE Overview

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COVER PHOTO: A member of the RCMP Civilian Search Dog Association, Alberta, on a training exercise. Photo provided by Grant Crowson. See related story on page 6.

SARSCENE

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What Do You Want to See at SARSCENE 2000?

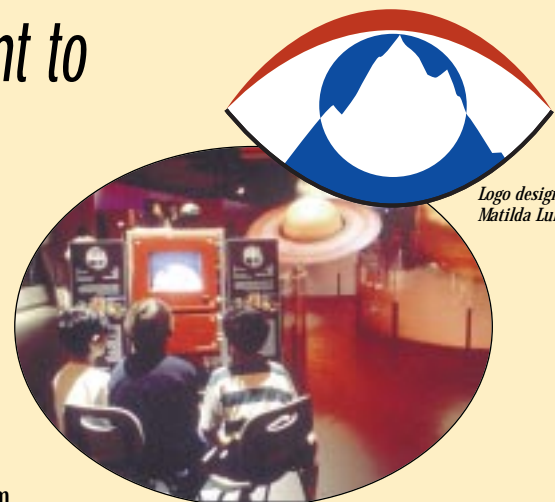
SARSCENE 2000 will feature the usual mix of hands-on presentations, lectures, a trade show, the SARSCENE Games and demonstrations.

Trying to create an exciting program for workshop participants is always a challenge. You can help us by letting us know what information you would like to see in Laval. Do you know someone who would make a great speaker? Is there a particular aspect of search and rescue you think needs addressing? Let us know and we'll do our best to include your input in our program.

SARSCENE 2000 is all about co-operation and partnership, so take a few minutes to share your suggestions and ideas! —

Send suggestions to:

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Logo design: Matilda Luk

The Cosmodome is just one of the attractions in Laval, Quebec.

In Search of Partners for Upcoming SARSCENE Workshops

Have you ever wondered how we decide where SARSCENE workshops will be held? The National Search and Rescue Secretariat has criteria which need to be met for each workshop including the ease of transportation, and the availability of meeting space and accommodation.

The most important element of all is a partner! Each year we partner with a local volunteer organization to host and plan the workshop. If you think your area would be an appropriate venue for a future workshop, please take note of the schedule and contact us for information on how to submit a proposal. —

For more information or to send a submission, please contact:
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YEAR	REGION	DEADLINE SUBMISSION
2002	East	1 July, 2000
2003	Central	1 July, 2001
2004	West	1 July, 2002

Please note that the schedule for Future SARSCENEs printed in the Spring 99 issue contained an error in the dates.



SAR VENTURE '99

ABOVE: Volunteer SAR personnel direct the STARS helicopter in for a landing during SAR Venture '99.

BELOW: SAR Venture '99's search management headquarters.

A Cessna 182 fixed-gear aircraft is reported overdue. The plane left Springbank Airport, Alberta at 1300 on Friday, 14 May 1999. The flight plan indicates the plane was heading to Clearwater Airport and that pilot Mike Venture, age 38, would not be carrying any passengers. The Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) in Trenton is notified. The RCC air controller notifies the Calgary Zone of CARES (Civil Air Rescue Emergency Services), which organizes a search plan to fly the missing plane's route. Before the CARES aircraft takes off from the Calgary International Airport, a small ground search and rescue (SAR) team, consisting of members from Foothills Regional SAR and Calgary SAR is put on standby to assist. After the plane takes off, an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) signal is detected. The CARES plane homes in on the signal and, once the position is confirmed, gives the ground SAR team co-ordinates. Unfortunately, the ELT had been removed from an aircraft for servicing and was accidentally triggered in the trunk of a car. The Cochrane RCMP detachment receives reports from residents of the Wiaparous Creek area of a plane with engine trouble flying at a low altitude. While the flight plan indicated no passengers, witnesses at Springbank airport report seeing at least one passenger board the plane. He is thought to be Guy McLaughlin, age 46, an epileptic with minimal survival training. The weather is overcast, with mixed precipitation, the plane would be flying at 7500 feet (2286 m) and would have visibility of only two nautical miles.





Foothills and Calgary regional SAR teams split up into search groups, each with a group leader.

This is the scenario that participants were given during SAR Venture '99, a search and rescue exercise held in Alberta in May 1999. The weekend exercise brought together a diverse group of organizations in an effort to promote teamwork, co-ordinate communications and working with tasking agencies during a scenario.

Planning for the exercise began in November 1998 during a meeting between Greg Ursel of CARES, Sgt Guy Kerr of Calgary Police Service and Foothills SAR, Tim Kelly of Calgary SAR and Sgt Rob Savage of RCMP Cochrane. After extensive planning and logistics, the exercise weekend arrives bringing with it cold temperatures, overcast conditions and snow.

The Foothills region of Alberta, just outside Calgary, is a busy area for searchers with increasing numbers of people exploring the rugged terrain and a high rate of air traffic. Along with practical experience, the exercise also gives participants a chance to learn more about the skills and assets of other organizations and to educate local media about search and rescue.

Prior to the Saturday morning briefing, ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) arrives at the command site to set up their

mobile command centre and their 30 m radio tower. Established over 30 years ago, the Calgary branch of ARES provides emergency communications support to a variety of organizations such as the Calgary Police and Fire Departments, Alberta Disaster Services, the RCMP and Parks Canada.

“Our primary function for this exercise is to make sure all the teams and the command posts can communicate with each other,” explains Gerry Leach. “So we have the equipment to put all the teams on the same frequency re-transmitting VHF as UHF for example.” The mobile command centre is full of radio equipment and a number of video monitors. Through fund-raising efforts, the team has been able to outfit the trailer and branch into some new technologies. “We work with the Calgary Fire Department quite regularly,” says Leach. “One of our unique services is providing live video feeds to command centres. This, combined with our radio services means that on-site commanders have constant visual and audio feeds from the scene.” While ARES has worked with CARES in the past, SAR Venture '99 was their first experience with a multi-jurisdictional SAR exercise.

As is the case with a real SAR incident, the media has to be managed carefully.



Some SAR Venture '99 participants with STARS helicopter.



Media handling is also a focus of SAR Venture '99 - in this case, short wave radio experts from ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) deal with the media, as well as providing a central communications hub for the search effort.

“It’s a tough situation,” says Greg Ursel. “On the one hand media coverage means that the public gets exposure about what you do and can learn about being prepared for the outdoors. But in a real search, there are certain things you don’t want the media to hear, especially concerning the missing person(s) and you can’t have them contaminating the search area.” For SAR Venture '99, organizers planned a morning search just for media. Reporters were able to ride along with a team, and observe them finding and treating victims of a plane crash. “For us, this was vital,” Ursel says. “Having a separate media exercise meant that we could give them access to what they wanted to see and still safeguard our actual search site.” For the media exercise, I travel with the Reach and Treat (RAT) team of the Foothills Regional Medical Service. The team consists of fully trained Emergency Medical Technicians who have specialized training for SAR. “Most of the ground SAR teams have good training for wilderness emergencies,” says Dave Watt, team supervisor. “But our EMTs can provide advanced life support on scene, and in serious cases where every minute counts, this can make a big difference to the

victim's recovery." RAT team members are trained in SAR fundamentals, high-angle and swiftwater rescue allowing them to help on scene instead of needing to be helped to reach the victim. For SAR Venture '99 four RAT members participated and Watt provided realistic makeup for victims and created the injury scenarios.

Once the media have participated in the first evacuation it's time to regroup at the command site and prepare for the exercise. The scenario is given and the SAR management team plans the search. "One of the main things we're discovering is that the ground SAR teams are used to receiving their information a certain way," says Guy Kerr of Foothills SAR. "For Greg and others with air SAR experience, information is usually brief and that's all they get – usually by the time ground SAR is called in to search, more information and detail is available." The command post is full of maps, radios and search managers, creating search areas, tracking people and equipment and preparing their teams.

Once the plan is in place teams are briefed and then head out to find the missing aircraft and its passengers. Organizers have planned that the search may continue past nightfall and most of the searchers are hoping it will "Night

searches are great," remarks one Foothills member. "We don't get to do it too often and it's always good to brush up on your skills."

Searchers work in teams of three, with one leader and two searchers. Constant radio contact is maintained and incoming information is recorded carefully. Donated all-terrain-vehicles are used to get information and people to search areas quickly.

After only a few hours of searching, the first victim is found and returned to the command site. "They found him about three hours earlier than we expected," says Ursel. "But what can you do? We're glad they're effective, though now we have to think about what to do if both victims are found this quickly! The groups were expecting to stay out here overnight and continue tomorrow."

Before nightfall both victims are found and returned to the command site. Searchers are debriefed in the command post and equipment is logged back in. "I think it was a good experience for everyone," says search manager Craig Sallows. "Communications were very good, but we did still encounter some problems. One map was way too segmented and some errors were made as a result. We should have had a huge map with UTM and



This SAR command centre features an erasable whiteboard interior for making notes during the search.

lat/long on display, but now we know for next time and that's the point."

Organizers were also concerned about some of the natural hazards in the area. "We're in prime season for ticks," says Tim Kelly of Calgary SAR. "And there have been reports of a bear in the area for the past few days. But the searchers are prepared and they know what precautions to take." The terrain provided some other challenges with steep hills and water becoming obstacles for all-terrain vehicles.

With the victims brought to safety much earlier than planned, some new practice sessions were devised for Sunday morning. Tim Kelly gave a lesson on EITs and homers and the group practised using signal mirrors. A final search is performed and two more victims (myself included) are carried out of the bush.

Later in the afternoon, the STARS (Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society) helicopter arrives and runs through some signaling and safety drills with the participants. Due to emergencies, STARS had been unable to participate in the evacuations planned for the scenarios.

The organizing team is looking ahead to 2000 and hoping to build on the success of SAR Venture '99 with an even larger event. —

Jennifer Reaney, NSS

For more information on SAR Venture '99 or 2000, please contact:

*Greg Ursel, CARES • Tel. (403) 861-4077
E-mail: Greg.Ursel@Shaw.Wave.ca*



The flat bed of a pick-up is used to evacuate the injured from the incident scene.

The Ideal Search

Everyone dreams of the ideal search, but somehow it never seems to happen. Until now. On 29 July, Cst Joel Mackown, the RCMP dogmaster at the Edmonton International Airport called the RCMP Civilian Search Dog Association (RCMP/CSDA) for help. A mother, her four children, and a niece and nephew were reported overdue.

Mr. Peters reported that his wife and family had gone to the Fort Assiniboine Sand Hills Wildlife Park, located approximately 25 miles (40 km) north of Barrhead, Alberta, and had not returned. When he had gone to the park to look for them, he found their empty vehicle still in the parking lot.



My pager went off at 01:00 hrs. that Thursday morning. Since I was just getting into bed, I sprang right back up and headed for the phone. After checking the search details, I paged the team leader indicating that I would be responding, within minutes, I was on the highway, heading to Barrhead. Enroute, I was informed there would be five search dog teams (Chris Lyseng, Cary Ireland-Shandro, Grant Crowson, Maggie Schlegl and Gordon Needham) responding, as well as our communication specialist, Gerry Jenkins, and search manager Jim Craig.

It was a normal callout until we reached the RCMP detachment in Barrhead. Because of a recent and successful search for a 97-year-old missing person, the RCMP had a county map detailing how to get to the park, and precise park maps showing all the hiking trails.

To get to the park we had to cross a river via ferry, leaving civilization behind, entering perfect search conditions for the dogs.

The evening was cool (+15°C), overcast with a few sprinkles of rain, and a wind that was starting to pick up out of the southwest. Not only did we have maps of the area, perfect search weather and no foreign scent in the area, but we had sand trails. Talk about ideal tracking conditions. We had containment with the natural boundaries of the park. We had the Athabasca River on the east and the Clearwater Creek on the south. We knew it would only be a matter of time before we would find our subjects; we hoped it wouldn't be too late.

We were briefed that we were searching for seven people, including a baby, four children under the age of nine, a 21-year-old and Mrs. Peters. Unlike other searches, where we have numerous bystanders, media people and family members, it was just us and the missing family.

Cst Mackown had been on site for almost 45 minutes before we arrived and had already decided where he wanted the dogs deployed: we would do a hasty search of the trail system, covering as much ground as possible. He headed west along the Lookout Loop, following the stroller marks in the sand, while I took the left side of the Loop and followed the riverbank in a southwesterly direction. Approximately two km down the trail, the path came to an unexpected end at Lookout Point. I backtracked to a cross trail heading west, and found stroller marks in the sand as well as footprints from a small running shoe. My heart began to pound as I hurried down the path, following the stroller tracks.

Now the other members of the dog team started to arrive and were assigned sectors by the search manager, Jim Craig. We were also informed that the RCMP helicopter was down for servicing. The STARS (Shock Trauma Air Rescue Services) helicopter had been requested for first light. Members of the Edmonton Regional Search and Rescue Team, as well as the Parkland Search and Rescue team, had also been notified.

In some places where the ground was hard, the tracks ended. (Later we would find out that we lost the stroller tracks in places because the mother would carry the stroller.)

Then to my surprise, I noticed a fresh set of boot marks on my path, and through radio communications I realized that I was just behind Cst Mackown. I was informed by Joel that he had come to a giant tree down across the path and had a number of path choices. He informed me that he was going to press on ahead and that I should check the side trails.

For a few minutes, I thought I must be on a different trail, as the path I was following turned into more of a washout than a trail. However, it wasn't long before I came to the fallen tree. Upon examining the area, I was glad that Joel had decided to crawl under the tree. Not only was it next to impossible to find a large enough opening to go under, but there was no way to go over or around the obstacle. I backtracked a few yards and noticed the same running shoe prints leading up a hill. With a natural barrier in front of me, I started to follow the footprints; however, part way up the hill, the prints turned around and came back down. I was sure Mrs. Peters had decided that the trail was too steep for the little ones, and so she came back down. Therefore, I headed up the trail to the north.

I had only gone a mile or so when the radio roared to life that Cst MacKown had located the family along the river, that they were cold and dirty, but they were all okay. He indicated that he was going to carry one of the little ones out while Mrs. Peters pushed one in the stroller. The others tagged along and headed for the main path.

I was met on the trail by Mr. Peters and our communications person, Gerry Jenkins



ABOVE: Rescued family warms up under blankets after being found by the river, cold and dirty, but unharmed.

LEFT: Gordon Needham and his dog during a training exercise.



and it wasn't long before we met up with the exhausted family.

A vehicle was dispatched down the main sand trail from the Command Post, and within minutes, the family was being loaded for the return trip to the parking lot and the awaiting ambulance. The family members were examined for hypothermia, wrapped in blankets and transported back to town.

As our vehicles rolled back onto the ferry, for the short trip across the river, I was able to slow down and look at all the

resources that were involved, as well as those still enroute, and realized that this was one search we had won.

This search was yet another BIG reminder that there is no "I" in TEAM, and living proof of the RCMP/CSDA's motto: "Working Together So Others May Live." —

*Gordon Needham
RCMP Civilian Search Dog Association
c/o RCMP Police Dog Service
"K" Division Headquarters
11140-109 Street, Edmonton AB T5G 2T4
Web site: www.tgx.com/rcmpdog*

Nominations Sought for 2000 Silver Plaque Award

The International Alpine Rescue Association, based in Pinzolo, Italy, annually honours an individual who has risked his or her life to save others. Founded in 1972, the International Alpine Solidarity Prize, the Silver Plaque, is intended to emphasize that people alone are the driving force in mountain

rescues. Criteria for the award, an inscribed silver plaque, are valour and courage in the face of danger.

The award may be conferred on:

- 1) alpine rescue service providers
- 2) alpine rescue service doctors
- 3) civilian and military helicopter pilots
- 4) directors of National Alpine Rescue Corps
- 5) journalists and editors of alpine rescue newspapers and magazines
- 6) members of the fire service
- 7) civilians who have performed acts of courage and special activities in cases of natural calamities or accidents in the mountains.

For eventual recommendations, the following must be presented:

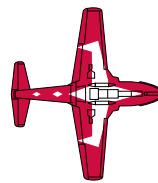
- Name and correct contact information of nominee
- Number of completed rescues, recoveries of the dead or wounded
- Name of their team/agency
- Paid or volunteer

All expenses in Italy are paid for the award winner. This year's award will be presented on 23 September 2000 in Pinzolo, Italy at 12:00 p.m. —

Nominations of Canadians may be sent to:
*Silver Plaque Award, Diane Miller
National Search and Rescue Secretariat
4th Floor Standard Life Building
275 Slater St, Ottawa ON K1A 0K2
Fax: (613) 996-3746 Tel: 1 800 727-9414*

Nominations for persons outside of Canada should be sent to:
*Cav. Angiolino Binelli, President
International Solidarity Alpine Award
Premio Internazionale Solidarieta
— Targa d'argento, 38086 Pinzolo (Trento)
Piazza Libertà, 1 Italy*

Snowbirds Space Pen

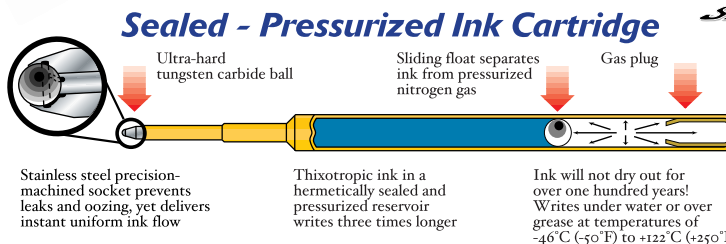


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Finding Lucy Harris

In 1936, in a small community on Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, a simple trouting trip turned into a harrowing ordeal that would forever change the life of a very remarkable little girl.

Ten-year-old Lucy Harris of New Melbourne, Trinity Bay, and her eight-year-old sister, Margie, decided to go trouting on their way home from school. The date was 26 March 1936, and true to form for Newfoundland at that time of year, the weather was foggy and very cold.

While walking to the brook, the sisters came upon a small runoff from the brook. Lucy could easily hop across, but Margie couldn't – so Lucy told her to head for home. Margie went home and got ready for supper with the family. It wasn't until the places were set that they realized Lucy wasn't there. The family assumed she had gone to her Aunt Lizzie Wheeler's home, a favourite place to visit. When it was discovered she wasn't there either, the heart-stopping message went out. The nearby church meeting was interrupted by a knock at the door and the news "Lucy is missing." Door-to-door searching began.

"When it got dark, I started to run. I don't remember everything, but I guess I was going pretty fast," recalls Lucy. "I know I lost my boots and my mitts while I was running and they say they found my belt too."

But while Lucy thought she was running out of the dense woods, she was actually running further in. Night time brought colder temperatures, the ground was still covered in snow and Lucy was just beginning her first long night alone in the woods.

The weather had grown worse, the fog so dense that the searchers' lanterns were useless. All they could do was wait for daybreak. "I remember people being at our house really late," says Margie. "I can't imagine what that night was like for our parents."

At daybreak, the church bells rang out, summoning the whole community to help search for the missing girl. Men stretched out in lines, eight to 12 feet apart and walked the woods. The network of footpaths was combed, popular fishing spots checked, but to no avail. What no one knew that day was that they would continue searching for 11 days.

The weather deteriorated. Strong winds, rain and snow hampered the search and nightfall brought a sense of dread. People wondered how Lucy could survive a second cold night in the woods.

As the days stretched on, searchers came from far and wide to help. With most families not owning a vehicle, some searchers walked five miles (8 km) to the search and then walked five miles (8 km) home at the end of the day. But despite the exhausting work and the poor weather, they kept coming. Wagon-loads of men came from neighbouring ports, but as the eighth and ninth days brought no sign of Lucy, many started to give up hope.

It seemed to the residents of New Melbourne and the neighbouring communities, that Lucy had simply vanished. Most area residents were of Irish descent and their strong religious beliefs were laced with superstitions and a belief in spirits – that belief frightened many of the local children. "I was 11 years old when Lucy went missing," recalls Lloyd Belbin. "Some of us thought, well if they haven't found her, then the fairies must have taken her. We were all afraid of the woods. My parents had a summer porch and that's where we kept our drinking water. They'd send me out to get water, but I was some afraid. I'd look out into the blackness and worry that the fairies were just waiting in the woods."

Lucy hadn't been taken by the fairies – in fact, she never made it one step past where she sat down on that first, wearying night. Her frostbitten legs could carry her no more, so she sat alone under a tree, in the young spruce woods, wearing only what she had put on that morning to go to school.

"No, I don't really remember being scared," says Lucy wistfully. "I remember birds singing and I know they printed in the newspapers that I said the birds kept me company. I could only reach ahead of me with one hand, so I did eat some snow. But I couldn't get up, I couldn't go anywhere."



Lucy Harris (middle), her sister Margie (right) and former nurse Mrs. MacNamara (left) at SARSCENE '99.

The searchers kept coming back, combing the woods and talking long into the night at the local store about where she could have gone. As March turned to April and it seemed more and more improbable that Lucy could still be alive, no one knew what to do.

Steven Pynn was 17 that year and an active member of the local search party. He remembers very well the final day of searching. “Thirteen men came on a truck, United men,” he says. “They came to Mr. Harris. He made them kneel in the road to pray. Then one of them, he was from Island Cove, said ‘we’ll go and get her’.” The men formed a line and walked into the woods. They walked for an hour. Then, 400 feet (122 m) from the pond, Jack Johnson and Ches Harris, Lucy’s uncle, heard a remarkable sound.

“Hello,” a small voice said. “I’m the little girl who’s lost in the woods.”

Unbelievably, Lucy had survived – 11 nights, 10 days, in the snow and wind with severe frostbite, no food and no water. Once they realized it was indeed Lucy talking and not their imagination or her spirit, the men made a stretcher out of their sheepskin coats.

“I remember coming out of the school with all the other kids, because the church bells were ringing,” recalls Bill Driscoll. “The bells rang for almost three hours and the news that Lucy had been found alive was spread from our village to the other outposts.”

“I’ll always remember the sound of those bells that day,” says Bill.

They say Lucy talked on the way out of the woods, asking about her

grandmother who had been ill. The doctor was summoned, and Lucy at last was home with her family. For the community, the nightmare was over, but for Lucy more hardship was still to come.

For over a year, Lucy would again be away from her family, getting medical treatment in St. John’s. News of the incredible survival story spread around the world, and for Lucy, the attention was somewhat bewildering. “I had letters and dolls from England and Australia,” she remembers, smiling. “People in St. John’s would cook dinners and bring them to me. My nurse and doctor were very kind, but it was lonely as I wasn’t in a ward with other children.”

But Lucy doesn’t think about her ordeal as something to be sorry about. “Even now, when I hear something on television about people dying after being stuck in the woods for a couple of days I think, you know I could last longer than that even now!” she says.

Lucy’s ordeal is still vividly remembered in New Melbourne. People now in their eighties recall the wind direction and weather for the first week of the search. “I remember my Mother tucking us in at night,” says Rita Belbin. “She said to us, now here you are, all safe and warm, and where is Lucy?”

Lucy, her sister Margie and her brother Ches still live in New Melbourne. So does her daughter, Sharon Pynn who, along with her husband and children, find it remarkable to think of what Lucy went through.

“I think the best message that comes out of Mom’s story



Lucy Harris with her nurse during the year-long recovery. Both of Lucy’s legs had to be amputated below the knee due to frostbite.

is not to give up hope,” says Sharon. “We all know that logically she shouldn’t have survived. But she did – and they didn’t stop searching.”

Over 700 people from across Canada and around the world heard Lucy’s story at the SARSCENE ’99 workshop in St. John’s, Newfoundland. They also witnessed a very special reunion between Lucy and Mrs. MacNamara, the nurse who cared for her 63 years ago in the St. John’s hospital. —

Jennifer Reaney, NSS

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English only

new film provided
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centre film in box

The search was carried out in a large area of dense forest as shown in this modern-day aerial photograph.

SARSCENE '99: A Record-Breaking Time on the Rock!

SARSCENE '99 Leading SAR into the Next Millennium was held 13-17 October in St. John's Newfoundland. Combining presentations, outdoor demonstrations and lots of social events, the workshop was a great success. A record 702 participants from across North America, Europe and Asia enjoyed the opportunity to share their knowledge and experience with members of volunteer, provincial/territorial and federal SAR organizations.

The NSS and the Newfoundland and Labrador Search and Rescue Association welcomed the SAR community by providing countless hours of planning, enthusiastic volunteers and outstanding resources for the workshop.

SARSCENE workshops have become the setting for the annual meetings of several SAR organizations. This year was no exception, and the days surrounding official SARSCENE events featured meetings for:

- Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada (SARVAC)
- The William G. Syrotuck Symposium
- The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary / Canadian Coast Guard
- Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA)

This year's opening ceremonies featured an inspiring story of survival. A documentary film recounted the experiences of Lucy Harris who, in 1936 survived an amazing 11 nights and 10 days lost in the woods near New Melbourne, Newfoundland. "The Lucy Harris Story," featuring Lucy, her family and some of the community who searched for her, reminded all SARSCENE participants to never give up. We were fortunate enough to have Lucy and her family attend the opening ceremonies and to witness a special reunion between Lucy and Mrs. MacNamara, the nurse who cared for her in St. John's 63 years ago.

Popular workshop sessions included:

- Swiss Air Flight 111 track (featuring RCC Halifax, Canadian Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary, RCMP and Nova Scotia EMO)
- GPS and Digital Mapping – Greg Ursel, CARES
- Tracking – Everett Savary, Halifax Regional SAR
- National Film Board of Canada Premiere of: *Lost*
- Mapping Exercise – Chris Long, Washington State and Rick Lavalla, ERI
- SAR Interviewing and Investigating Skills – Mike Doyle, SARBC
- K9 Unit Management: Leadership Strategies for the 21st Century – Jonni Joyce, K9 Capers.



Universal Helicopter participating in outdoor demonstrations.



This year marked a turn to more hands-on, practical sessions and from all accounts the change was appreciated. We look forward to offering even more hands-on sessions next year.

The SARSCENE trade show featured 45 booths representing a wide variety of SAR services, products and companies. Many of the trade show exhibitors donated items to the silent auction, organized by the Newfoundland and Labrador

Search and Rescue Association. The auction was very successful, raising over \$3,000 for SAR teams in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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SARSCENE WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTERS

PRESENTER	WORKSHOP
Monica Ahlstrom, SARVAC	The Pooh of the Matter
Cst R. Baker, RCMP	Newfoundland's Sledsmart Program
Bill Bedford, RCMP	New SAR Initiatives Fund: Show Me the Money The Canadian GSAR Database
Bruce Berkshire, Triple Bay Eagles SAR	Newfoundland's Sledsmart Program
Allen Bilodeau, CCG	Launch of the CCG's 47-Foot Lifeboat
Don Blakely, Vernon SAR	SAR Role in Urban Interface: Wildfires
Professor Roger Boshier, UBC	Socio-Cultural Factors in West Coast Fishing Incidents
Major Michel Brisebois, DND	Swiss Air Flight 111: An RCCs Perspective RCC Halifax Overview
Sgt Kevin Butt, RNC	The Lucy Harris Story
John Chaffey, NSS	Developing & Harmonizing National GSAR Training The Canadian GSAR Database
Paul Chevette, DRE Valcartier	The Infrared Eye: Operational Prototype
Donald C. Cooper, National Rescue Consultants	Application of Selected Principles of Search Theory
Kim Cooper, OVSDA	K9 SAR and the Hasty Search
Paul G. Crawford, U.S. National Park Service	Customer Service in Public Safety
John Davidson, CASARA	CASARA Overview
David Day, Hibernia	Emergency Response at Hibernia
Cpl Everett Densmore, RCMP	Ground SAR Response to Swiss Air Flight 111
Mike Doyle, SARBC	Interviewing and Investigating Skills
Dr. Gino Ferri	Handling Crisis Situations in a Wilderness Environment Survival in the Bush
Jack Frost, Soza & Associates	Principles of Search Theory
Jack Gallagher, CCG	CCG Response to Swiss Air Flight 111
Cpl Jim Galloway, RCMP	RCMP Civilian Search Dog Association Canine Urban SAR
Keith Gathercole, NSS	The SAR Response Review
Major Colin Goodman, RCC Victoria	CANAM SAREX 2000
Major Rick Hanna, DND	Y2K and Federal SAR
Keith Heavrin, MESARD	How We Get Dogs to Do What We Want
Bob Howell, AES	Weather Services in Support of SAR
Clair Israelson	Community/Municipal Response to Avalanches
Philip Jennex, CCG College	GMDSS
Jonni Joyce, K9 Capers	K9 Unit Management: Leadership Strategies for the 21st Century
Kris Kaulbars, RCMP CSDA	RCMP Civilian Search Dog Association Canine Urban SAR
Captain Mark Kern, USCGA	U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary: Conducting Preventative SAR
Rick Lavalla, ERI	The First SAR Operational Period: A 6-Step S.O.P. Mapping Workshop

PRESENTER	WORKSHOP
Lynn Lawson, River Valley SAR	The Connectors Program: Managing Next of Kin
Mike Lester, Nova Scotia EMO	Lessons Learned from Swiss Air Flight 111
Major Tom Lindsey, DND	New SAR Initiatives Fund: Show Me the Money
David Liverman, Geological Survey of Newfoundland & Labrador	Avalanches in Newfoundland & Labrador
Chris Long, Washington State EMD	The First SAR Operational Period: A 6-Step S.O.P. Mapping Workshop
Don MacCaul, NSS	Rationale for Removal of 121.5/243MHz Repeaters on COSPAS-SARSAT Satellites
Jean Maillette, CCG College	CANSARP
Gary Masson, CCGA	CCGA Response to Swiss Air Flight 111
Raymond Mathieu, Bombardier	The Canadair 415: Evolution of the Multi-Purpose Amphibian
Amanda McDonald, NSS	The Canadian GSAR Database
Loreena McKennitt	Boating Safety: The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund for Water Search and Safety
Wayne Merry, Context North	Some Chilling Facts about Camp Stove Carbon Monoxide
Gordon Needham, RCMP CSDA	RCMP Civilian Search Dog Association Canine Urban SAR
Per Nilsen, Parks Canada	SAR Best Practices
John Palliser, CCG	CANAM SAREX 2000
Elizabeth Peckham	Y2K Preparedness in Newfoundland and Labrador
Allister Pedersen, TMI Communications	MSAT: Total Wireless Communications System
Cst K. Piercey, RNC	Evidence Preservation
Scott Russell, NSS	SAR Best Practices SAR Response Review
Everett Savary, Halifax Regional SAR	Tracking Workshop
Richard Smith	SAR Prevention and Management for Wilderness Guides and Outfitters
Harry Strong, CCGA	CCGA: Taking on New Challenges
Mary Thomas, NSS	The New SAR Initiatives Fund: Show Me the Money
LCol Rick Thompson, DND	The Enhanced Synthetic Vision System
Commodore Everette Tucker, USCGA	U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary: Conducting Preventative SAR
Ed Unger, EMO Ontario	The New SAR Initiatives Fund: Show Me the Money
Greg Ursel, CARES	GPS and Digital Mapping
Bill Vargas	Do You Really Understand Unified Command?
Mike Voigt, CCG	Y2K and Federal SAR GMDSS
Rob Walz, Algoma Insurance	The SARVAC Ground Search Insurance Program
Kathryn Youngblut, Govt of NT	SAR Prevention in the Northwest Territories



LABS CAN SWIM!
For those of us who did not know about the Lab's famous swimming abilities the DND SAR Techs demonstrated a water landing and rescue.

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The SARSCENE Games were held for a third year with Marathon Emergency Services earning first place honours for the second time. The CF SAR Techs came in second, followed by the Triple Bay Eagles. Held at the Sunshine Camp, the games saw 12 teams from all over Canada and the U.S. competing on an outdoor course (on a very chilly day). Competitors and spectators not only enjoyed seeing skills put to the test but were also treated to a mooseburger barbecue!

SARSCENE wasn't all work and no play. To officially welcome everyone to Newfoundland, a mass Screech-in was held, hosted by Harry Strong, CEO of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. A select list of guests (victims) were screeched-in in fine style, and in front of hundreds of witnesses.

The 1999 Outstanding SAR Achievement Awards Banquet honoured Lloyd Gallagher, formerly of the Kananaskis Country Public Safety Program for his outstanding career in mountain rescue, the development of the K-Country program and his pioneering work



in heli-sling rescue. Certificates of Achievement in SAR were awarded to:

- Douglas E. Betts, CASARA Nova Scotia
- Harry Blackmore, 6th St. John's Rovers and Newfoundland and Labrador SAR Association
- Halifax Regional Search and Rescue Team
- Martin Colwell, Lion's Bay Search and Rescue

The Newfoundland crew also put together outstanding outdoor demonstrations, battling lots of logistics and that famous Newfoundland wind! A cliff rescue demonstration was held at Cuckold's Cove and featured transfer of the victim from the cliff to a fast rescue craft and then to a helicopter. (Special thanks to Don Blakely, Vernon SAR for volunteering to be dangled off a cliff!)

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Tactical Team no doubt surprised some hotel guests as they rappelled down the side of the Delta Hotel. And residents living near Qidi Vidi Lake must have wondered what was happening when they saw a Labrador helicopter from 103 Rescue Unit in Gander landing in the lake, one from Cougar Helicopters hoisting people out of the lake and another from Universal hoisting a stretcher and an attendant!

The one thing that never changes about SARSCENE is the amount of work involved in making it happen. Special thanks are extended to:

- The Newfoundland and Labrador Search and Rescue Association (especially Harry Blackmore, and Barry Nash)

- The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC), especially Sgt Kevin Butt
- The Canadian Coast Guard
- The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary
- 103 Rescue Unit, Gander
- Speakers

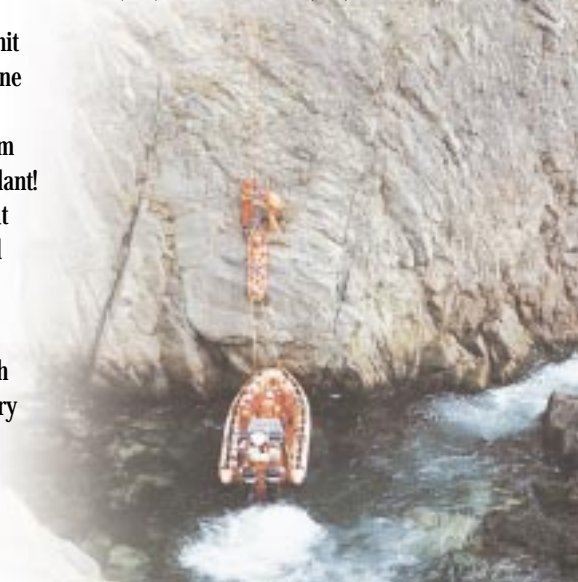
SARSCENE 2000 will take place 11-15 October at the Sheraton Laval, Laval, Quebec, and planning is well underway. Our partner is the Volunteer Group Sauvetage Canada Rescue and together we look forward to bringing you another outstanding workshop. ■

Jennifer Reaney, NSS

For more information about SARSCENE 2000, please contact:

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National Search and Rescue Secretariat
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Tel. 1 800 727-9414 or (613) 996-2642
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Website: www.nss.gc.ca*

*Carol Namur, SARSCENE 2000 Co-Chair
T.V.G. Sauvetage Canada Rescue
E-mail: cnamur@citenet.net
Tel. (450) 974-1551, Fax. (450) 974-9793*



SARSCENE TRADESHOW LISTINGS

Organization Name	Location	Phone	Internet	Description
Algoma Insurance	Sault Ste. Marie, ON	1 888 525-4662	www.algomains.com	The National Ground Search and Rescue Insurance Program. Tailor-made insurance program offers comprehensive coverage at cost-saving rates.
American Rescue Dog Association (ARDA)	West Porters Lake, NS	(902) 827-3767	www.ardainc.org	Canine air scent search team first developed by Bill and Jean Syrotuck.
Archer Fire & Safety	St. John's, NF	1 888 941-6224	archer@nf.sympatico.ca	Growing independent suppliers of fire, safety and rescue equipment.
Auroralites Inc.	Waterdown, ON	(905) 690-3506	www.auroralites.com	Specializing in illuminated safety systems, K9 Safety Collar, Clip-On Safety Light, Locator Sphere.
Bombardier Aerospace	Dorval, QC	(514) 855-7638		The Canadair 415 is a highly manoeuvrable 20-ton amphibious aircraft with excellent low speed/low level handling characteristics.
Breeze-Eastern	Union, NJ U.S.A.	(908) 686-4000	breeze_eastern.com	
Canadian Avalanche Association	Banff, AB		www.avalanche.ca	Represents persons engaged in avalanche work in Canada with objectives to promote standards of professional competence, communication, education, training, public awareness, and research and development.
Canadian Centre for Marine Communications (CCMC)	St. John's, NF	(709) 579-4872	www.ccmc.nf.ca	A national not-for-profit organization dedicated to the development of advanced technology marine products and services.
Canadian Coast Guard Marine Rescue Sub-Centre St. John's	St. John's, NF	(709) 772-2123		Co-ordinates SAR responses along the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador. Operated by the CCG.
Canadian Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety	St. John's NF	(709) 772-2123		Safety information (including new boating regulations) and the equipment required on board Canadian vessels.
Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary	Ottawa, ON	(613) 991-5714	www.ccg-a-gcac.com	A federally incorporated non-profit association of volunteers that assists the CCG in SAR response and boating safety related activities.
Canadian Red Cross, Newfoundland & Labrador Region	St. John's, NF	(709) 758-8418	rkenney@redcross.ca	The Disaster and Preventative Services Program of the Canadian Red Cross focusses on the areas of preventative education and training.
Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA)	Winnipeg, MB	(204) 833-2500	sartech@istar.ca	CASARA display shows SAR effort and relation between military and CASARA volunteers.
The Current Corporation	Port Moody, BC	(604) 937-5559	currentcorp.com	A specialized distributor of Gen III Night Vision products, the Current Corporation also distributes handheld searchlights and vessel-mounted environmentally housed xenon searchlights with white or infrared beam.
Digital Space Systems Inc. (DSSI)	Nepean, ON	(613) 727-3357	www.digitalspacesystems.com	DSSI's SearchMaster/CaseMaster application integrates Geographic Information Systems and Relational Database Management Systems technologies into a single desktop platform for SAR controllers.
Downeast Mobility & Downeast TAS Communications	St. John's, NF	1 800 563-1223	www.downeast.ns.ca	Supplier of cellular, paging and two-way radio communications products and Iridium satellite communications. Sales, warranty and service centre for all major brands.
Emergency Response Institute	Canmore, AB	(403) 678-6146	eri_can@telusplanet.net	SAR, emergency management, emergency/disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Publishing and consulting.
Festival Promotions	Nepean, ON	(613) 723-7868	www.festival.net	We customize over 400 000 different products including Tilley hats, baseball hats, pins, mag lights, epaulettes, etc.
GTIS-Government Mobile Satellite	Hull, QC	(819) 956-3973		A wireless communications network that offers access to public telephone and packet data networks from anywhere in North America, using the MSAT mobile satellite system.
Hibernia Management & Development Company Ltd.	St. John's, NF	(709) 778-7331		Offshore oil operation, focus on safety and preparedness.
Hot Pack Enterprises Inc.	St-Jovite, QC	(819) 425-7241	hpmeals@intlaurentides.qc.ca	The meal that heats itself. Enjoy a hot meal anywhere anytime without matches, fire or stove.
ICAN Ltd.	St. John's, NF	(709) 754-0400	www.ican.nf.net	Designs and implements sophisticated navigation and communications software, and provides DGPS solutions including consulting and system design.
INFOSAT Telecommunications	Coquitlam, BC	1 888 524-3038	www.infosat.com	Full service provider for mobile and fixed satellite services for voice, fax, paging and data communications.
International Submarine Engineering Ltd.	Port Coquitlam, BC	(604) 942-5223	www.ise.bc.ca	SARPAL is an air-droppable marine vehicle with remote control capability for SAR.
Laerdal Medical Canada Ltd.	Scarborough, ON	1 888 523-7325	laerdal.com	For 40 years, Laerdal has been proud to present products and services specially designed to support the Chain of Survival.
Mercury Marine	Mississauga, ON	(905) 567-6372, ext. 294		Mercury – for all your marine propulsion needs, over 7000 dealers worldwide.
Mustang Survival Corp.	Richmond, BC	1 800 661-6181	www.mustangsurvival.com	World leader in research, design and manufacture of personal safety and survival equipment.
Newfoundland and Labrador Search & Rescue Association Inc.	Paradise, NF	(709) 782-1059		Sale of articles and information on SAR and the Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada (SARVAC).
Newtel Mobility	St. John's, NF	1 800 563-6601		
Northern Airborne Technology Ltd.	Kelowna, BC	(250) 763-2232		Designs and manufactures a range of 406-MHz emergency locator beacons for marine, land and airborne applications.
Oceanid	Boise, ID U.S.A.	(208) 322-3600	www.oceanid.com	Inflatable watercraft for ice rescue, swiftwater, low head dams, tidal mud flats, emergency and fire response and much more.
Ontario Drive & Gear Limited	New Hamburg, ON	(519) 662-2840	www.argoatv.com	Argo six- and eight-wheel drive off-road amphibious utility vehicles.
Parks Canada	Halifax, NS	(902) 426-5875		Provides a public safety program dealing with specific incidents and issues found in each heritage area.
R.Nicholls Distributors Inc	Goulds, NF	(709) 748-2813		Security equipment and clothing.
Royal Newfoundland Constabulary	St. John's, NF		www.gov.nf.ca/rnc	Royal Newfoundland Constabulary information and mobile museum.
Seimac Limited	Dartmouth, NS	(902) 468-3007	www.seimac.com	Manufactures the Self-Locating Datum Marker Buoy (SLDMB). It is currently being used operationally by the CF and CCG.
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary	Yorktown, VA U.S.A.			A 32 000 member, all-volunteer force which supports and augments the U.S. Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas.
The Volunteer Group Sauvetage Canada Rescue (S.C.R.)	Saint-Joseph-du-Lac, QC	(450) 974-1551	www.scr.ca	In partnership with the NSS will host SARSCENE 2000 in Laval, QC, 11-15 October 2000.
Whelen Canada	Yarmouth, NS	1 800 438-0983	www.whelen.com	Designs and manufactures visual and audible warning equipment including strobe and halogen light bars, beacons, power supplies, sirens and secondary lighting products.
Whites Manufacturing	Saanichton, BC	(250) 652-8554		Oldest manufacturer of wet and dry suits in Canada. Our supreme dry suits are used by the CF and CCG. The CF SAR divers have been issued with our new SAR suit. ■

1999 Washington State SAR Conference

The 1999 Washington State SAR Conference was held 17-23 May 1999 at the King County Fairgrounds in Enumclaw, Washington. More than 700 participants attended from search and rescue units and law enforcement agencies in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Alberta and British Columbia.



Pre-conference training featured seven courses: Managing Search Operations – Initial Response, ICS for Law Enforcement, ICS 1-300, Track Awareness, Swiftwater Rescue, Canine SAR and Wilderness EMT.

The conference itself offered more than 70 different classes. Subjects ranged from helicopter operations, rough terrain evacuation and use of horses in SAR to business management of a volunteer unit, advanced search theory concepts and SAR base camp management. Cpl Everett Densmore, RCMP H Division, Nova Scotia, and Dr. Ken Hill, Halifax Regional SAR, gave excellent presentations on the ground SAR response to September 1998's Swissair Flight 111 disaster.

Thanks are due to the King County Search and Rescue Association and the King County Sheriff's Office for a great training opportunity.

Lewis County will host next year's conference 19-21 May 2000 (pre-conference training 15-19 May) at Rainier West near Randle, Washington. The conference Web site is up and running at www.co.lewis.wa.us/sheriff/2000conference.htm. So mark your calendars and plan on coming to Washington in 2000! —

Chris Long
Washington State SAR Co-ordinator
E-mail: C.Long@emd.wa.gov

MultiTrek ad
Business card size Blk/wt
Strip in from previous issue
Fall 1998 pg 13 E, pg 12 F

Upcoming Events

If you have any events to list in the upcoming issue of *SARSCENE* Magazine, please contact Jennifer Reaney. Phone: 1 800 727-9414 or (613) 996-3035
E-mail: jennifer@nss.gc.ca. Fax: (613) 996-3746.

WINTER 2000 – WILDERNESS TRAINING PROGRAMS

Northern Horizons – A variety of courses will be offered for people interested in learning more about wilderness survival or training in map and compass or GPS. For more information contact: Director Rob O'Gorman
Northern Horizons
101 Mountshannon Dr.
Nepean ON K2J 4C2
Tel: (613) 823-6310
Fax: (613) 823-1130
E-mail: robo@northernhorizons.com
URL: <http://www.northernhorizons.com>

SAR TRAINING PROGRAMS – SAUVETAGE CANADA RESCUE

A variety of SAR training opportunities will be available from Sauvetage Canada Rescue. The courses will encompass a variety of SAR skills and will be offered at a number of skill levels. For more information contact: Carol Namur, Sauvetage Canada Rescue
1791, Principale
St-Joseph-du-Lac, QC J0N 1M0
Tel: (450) 974-1551
Fax: (450) 974-9793

SARSCENE 2000

The ninth annual Canadian SAR workshop will be held 11-15 October 2000 in Laval, Quebec. For the first time COSPAS-SARSAT will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with *SARSCENE*. For more information about the workshop please contact: Louise Pilloud, Chief Client Services
National Search and Rescue Secretariat
4th Floor Standard Life Building
275 Slater Street,
Ottawa ON K1A 0K2
Tel: 1 800 727-9414
Fax: (613) 996-3746
URL: www.nss.gc.ca
E-mail: louise@nss.gc.ca
Carol Namur – The Volunteer Group
Sauvetage Canada Rescue
E-mail: cnamur@citenet.net

RESPONSE 2000

The annual NASAR Response conference will be held 28 September – 1 October at the Sheraton Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Details are still being finalized, but keep an eye on the NASAR Web Site for the latest details.
URL: www.nasar.org

MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION (MRA)

Mountain Rescue Association & Canadian Wildlands Rescue Workshop

19-21 June 2000
Nordegg, Alberta

Mountain Rescue Association 42nd Annual Conference
22-25 June 2000.
Nordegg, Alberta

International Commission for Alpine Rescue (IKAR) 52nd Annual Conference
15-19 October 2000.
Grand Canyon, Arizona.
Cohosted: NASAR & MRA.
www.ikar-cisa.org

ITRS (International Technical Rescue Symposium)
22-26 October 2000
Phoenix, Arizona (tentative).

Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) 43rd Annual Meeting
June 2001 (weekend before Father's Day) Seattle, Washington.

For more information on these meetings please visit our Web site at: www.mra.org or info@mra.org
Tim Kovacs, President
Mountain Rescue Association
Operations Leader/ Paramedic,
C.A.M.R.A./ MCSO MR
tkovacs@goodnet.com —