

NBGSARA Update

May, 2008

New Brunswick Ground Search and Rescue Association

Volume 1, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- New executive elected
- Total Searches in 2008—32
- Total Searchers hours 2008-2,398
- Searcher hours cost estimate-\$290,948

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Annual General Meeting-Fredericton-May 02, 2009

The Association held its annual general meeting on 02 May in Fredericton. The main business of the AGM was to elect an executive.

- Joseph LaBelle (Tri-County) was selected for the position of President;
- Stephen Moore (York Sunbury) was selected as 2nd Vice-President/Training Officer;
- Jeff Doucet (Miramichi) was selected as Treasurer and;
- Eldon Gilmore (Tri-County) was returned as Secretary.

The position of 1st Vice-president was not filled, and the board encourages anyone interested in the position to contact the Secretary.

2009-2010 Executive

Joseph LaBelle,

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Stephen Moore

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Jeff Doucet

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Eldon Gilmore, Secretary,

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Results for 2008

A total of 2,398 hours were recorded by searchers in 32 different operations, involving 8 of the province's 11 SAR teams.

The direct cost to the province's police forces was only \$8,312 while the manpower cost saving to the police, at \$35 hour was just under \$291K.

Missing person operations accounted for 59% of searcher hours, followed by 17% for lost persons, 15% for rescues and 9% for evidence searches.



Membership Policy Reminder

The NBGSARA requires member teams to maintain information in the provincial Electronic Ground Search and Rescue Administrative Database System (EGADS). This system, developed by association volunteers, provides a central records system for individual members, training, search operations and events.

Member-teams of the association are required to enter the names and telephone numbers of their member-searchers,

identify emergency activation contacts and identify local team administrators and delegates to the provincial board, enter training events and results and search reports.

Disability insurance for volunteers injured in search operations or bona fides training is provided through provisions of the Worker Compensation system, and covers only searchers and training activities recorded in the data base. Cost recovery from police forces requires a

file number issued by the EGADS system when the search report is completed. By using the central, web-based EGADS system local teams to publish emergency activation numbers for easy access by police agencies calling upon our services.

To protect team members and maintain NBGSARA membership, teams are reminded to ensure their records in EGADS are up-to-date.



“The mathematical distribution of probability shows searchers should first search near the IPP and search outwards versus searching the 37-62% or the 25-75% first”

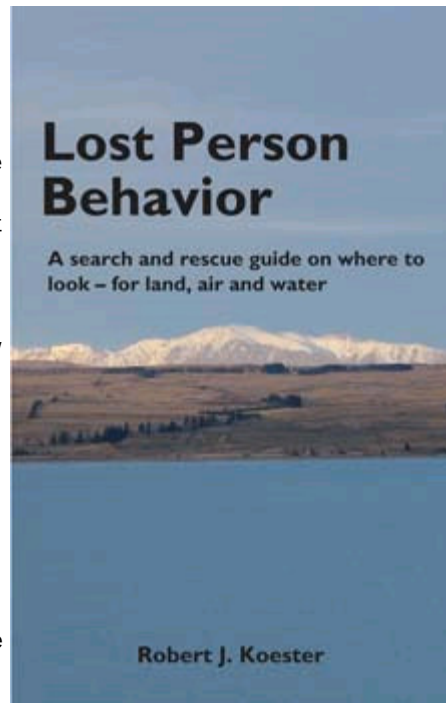
Lost Person Behaviour

Robert Koester has published his landmark study of lost person behavior under the title *“Lost Person Behaviour: A Search and Rescue Guide on Where to Look-for Land, Air and Water”*.

Working from the 30,000 records in the International Search and Rescue incident Database (ISRID), Bob presents lost person behavior profiles for 21 new categories, bringing the total to 41. Each profile category now contains statistics, general behavior traits, outlines of reflex tasks for the category and potential investigative questions.

Lost Person Behavior explores a number of topics that until now have been clouded by folk wisdom, rather than being informed by objective data. Most important of these is the finding that the probability density for subjects decreased the further one travels from the PLS. The implication for search planners is that the previously popular practice of concentrating on the “donut” between the

25 percentile and 75 percentile distances is not as effective as a thorough search of the area within approximately 300m of



the PLS.

As *Lost Person Behavior* is the most comprehensive report of its kinds and constitutes the most statistically significant material available to search managers, NBGSARA voted to adopt the distances and behav-

ior descriptions as its operational doctrine during the January 2009 board meeting.

The Board of Directors also voted to purchase 2 copies for each team and make an additional dozen copies available to searchers on a cost recovery basis.

Bob Koester is also providing training on lost person behavior and a train-the-trainer session will be held in Virginia in August. The NBGSARA has allocated funds to send up to four search managers to participate in the train-the-trainer session to ensure Ground Search within the province has access to the most up-to-date information to assist in our search operations.

Koester, Robert. J., *“Lost Person Behavior: A Search and Rescue Guide on Where to Look-for Land, Air and Water”*, Charlottesville, VA: dbS Productions: 2008. (ISBN 987-1-879471-39-9)

<http://www.dbs-sar.com/LPB/lpb.htm>

http://www.dbs-sar.com/LPB_TTT/index.htm



Hug-A-Tree and Survive

Through NIF funding, BC SAR has updated the Hug-a-Tree and Survive program and has made the new material available through the RCMP.

The program was initially developed in San Diego after Jimmy Beveridge died while lost from a camping trip with his family. Ab Taylor, a retired border patrol officer well known for his man-tracking training, and Tom Jacobs created a program aimed at teaching young people who to survive being lost in the wilderness and how to help searchers locate them.

In 1995, the RCMP obtained a license to operate the program in Canada and a video program was produced to assist presenters in delivering the material.

Thousands of young people have received the training in New Brunswick through the efforts of GSAR volunteers.

In 2008, a new version of the accompanying video and the presenters handbook were released and are now available

from the provincial GSAR coordinator at RCMP "J" Division.

Hug-a-Tree and Survive teaches children invaluable outdoor survival lessons, including:

- Always tell an adult where you are going.
- Always carry an orange garbage bag and whistle on picnics, hikes and camping trips.
- Once you know you're lost, "hug a tree" and stay put.
- Make a face hole in your garbage bag and put it on over your head to keep warm and dry.
- Help searchers find you by blowing your whistle and by answering their calls.

Hug-a-Tree provides practical training to young people on how to survive being lost in the wilderness. The program also provides an opportunity for GSAR teams to increase their profile within the community.

Only "qualified presenters" may

present the Canadian Hug-a-Tree program. A presenter is a person who has been designated, in writing, by his/her department, agency or organization to present the program. A qualified presenter is a person who, as a minimum has a basic knowledge of Search and Rescue, has read and follows the direction provided in the manual and signed an agreement to comply with all program requirements.

If you are seeking tools for greater community involvement and if you want to increase your preventative SAR presence in your area, Hug-A-Tree and Survive will be useful tool.

For further information and for presentation tools, contact

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"Hug-A-Tree and Survive" is a children's Search and Rescue (SAR) preventative program. It is aimed at children from kindergarten to grade six.

NIF Sponsored GPS Train-the-Trainer

The first activities related to the NIF GIS program are being rolled out to team representatives.

GPS capabilities for all teams was identified as central to improving geo-spatial management during search operations. The NIF program has provided funds to equip all teams with GPSs and with basic electronic mapping capabilities. The GIS Working Group is now delivering the train-the-trainer sessions to team representatives to ensure all searchers use the same basic approach to GPS opera-

tions across the province.

GIS Working Group chair Glen Martin (YSSR) and instructors Duane Miller (Tri-County) and Claude Chiasson (Chaleur) delivered the first course on May 02-03 in Fredericton. The next session will be held in Miramichi on May 23-24.

Two sessions were organized to allow participation by all teams, and different venues were chosen to minimize travel time and cost.

All teams must send instructor candidates to the training ses-

sions before GPS units can be released to the team.

The training sessions are designed to provide guidance on teaching GPS use, rather than focusing on the GPS itself. Teams have been requested to ensure their instructor candidates are already familiar with GPS operations within a GSAR environment.

We hope to have pictures of the training for future issues of the update.



New Brunswick Ground Search and Rescue Association

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SO OTHERS MAY LIVE...

The New Brunswick Ground Search and Rescue Association (1987) Inc. is the body representing and serving the **11** volunteer ground search and rescue teams that service police forces across the province. As a totally volunteer organization, the NBGSARA is directed by a volunteer board drawn from the local teams.

WWW.NBGSARA.NB.CA

Billing Policy Reminder-Update

The Service Level Agreement between the NBGSARA and the RCMP specifies the expense recovery rates for operations. The rates are, except for CP and Support Vehicle costs, tied to the Province of New Brunswick Travel Directives.

According to current provincial rates, personal vehicle expense recovery is \$0.39/km. Meals not provided by the policing agency can be claimed at the following rates: Breakfast- \$7.00; Lunch-\$9.50; Dinner-\$14.50.

Direct expenses, such as fuel for generators or rental vehicle costs can be recovered at the actual cost.

Other direct expenses such as batteries or flagging tape purchased and paid for by teams and subsequently used during a search can also be billed back to the requesting police agency.

Cost recovery for Command Posts and attached trailer is currently pegged at \$1.50/km. This is the same rate in place since 2002. Discussions are on going with the RCMP to increase the recovery as costs have gone up considerably since the initial agreement and total kilometers being charged is well below the amount anticipated.

Cost recovery for specialized

vehicles, like personal vehicles towing trailers with ATVs or snowmobiles is at \$1.00 per kilometer.

The RCMP have been quite willing in the past to consider legitimate expense recovery, as even by volunteer standards our \$290,000 in member's time is quite generous. Where we do have possible issues is in the consistency of our reporting and claims.

It is important that team carefully track expenses during searches and appropriate details be submitted during the reporting process.

