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Member Units:

King County 4x4 Search
and Rescue
King County Explorer
Search And Rescue
King County Search And
Rescue Operations
King County Search Dogs
Northwest Horseback
Search And Rescue
Pacific Northwest Trackers
Rescue One
Seattle Mountain Rescue
Ski Patrol Rescue Team

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Point Last Seen

The King County Search And Rescue Association newsletter for Spring, 2007

From the President

There has been a lot of recent activity within the KCSARA administration. With the confusion of last year behind us, we're concentrating on getting back to normal, and launching several new initiatives.

Website Expansion

There's now over 300 pages on the KCSARA website (<http://kcsara.org>), and it continues to expand every day. There's no login required to read any of the content. A couple of the more notable new items is a KCSARA Blog, or "web-log", which hosts news and commentary, and invites comments from readers; the KCSARA Knowledge Base, which allows any KCSARA member participate in managing a collaborative database of information; and the KCSARA Business Papers which keeps readers apprised of the efforts within the KCSARA Executive Board and Governing Body.

Corporate Governance

As a corporation that solicits funds from the public, KCSARA has responsibilities that simply must be met. Among these are proper registration with, and reporting to, state and federal authorities, regularly documented corporate meetings, and adherence to our corporate policies and bylaws. To make sure we meet these responsibilities we are in the process of reviewing our existing bylaws and developing corporate governance procedures. Our progress will be reported at future Governing Body meetings and posted to the website. I am open to questions or comments from any KCSARA member or stakeholder interested in our ongoing corporate governance efforts.

Fundraising

It's an unfortunate reality that in this day and age we can't adequately serve our neighbors without the monetary support of our local community and businesses. Our expenses have been increasing for

years, and our income must increase as well. We have several new initiatives being considered, and are actively looking for a volunteer to lead the effort. To stay apprised of our fundraising activities you can monitor the fundraising section of our website, or drop me an email at president@kcsara.org.

That's all for now. Remember that KCSARA is as great as the effort we all put into the organization. Keep your equipment ready, stay up-to-date on the rest of your activities, and please find the time to join us when called. For something new, turn out for a mission of a type you haven't tried before. You'll reduce your refresher requirements, work with great people, and know that you've done something to help others.

From KCSO

Incident Command System

The subject of ICS with regards to our missions has been a growing topic of interest for some time. The adoption of ICS and NIMS practices is directly tied into Federal Funding for Law Enforcement Agencies. So, to those who ask, "do we have to?" the answer is yes.

Snohomish and Pierce Counties have developed their own model for incorporating ICS into SAR, and with input from everyone involved King County will as well. The role you play in a mission will be the same; the title you carry and the physical location in which you are working may change. In fact, some of you might find you will be tasked with greater responsibility, as you will be working more closely with the I/C.

I have faith in every one of you, and trust you will all do whatever is necessary to help make this transition. Learning something new is sometimes daunting, and can be confusing when what you have always done seems to work. Yes, what we have done in the past has worked quite well, but ICS is about working with others.

Want to be an EMT?

Checkout the new EMS section of the KCSARA website (kcsara.org/ems/), if interested, make sure your unit's Training Director knows of your interest. King County provides a free class (a \$400+ value) twice a year, and KC-EMS typically has spaces available for KCSARA members.

Want to be a CPR and First Aid Instructor?

The Instructor course (a \$430 value) starts April 17. For information contact Joanne Bottenberg at (206) 829-1194, or go to http://kcsara.org/calendar/CPR_and_First_Aid_Instructor_Course.

KCSARA Calendar:

KCSARA Governing Body Meetings are held the second Monday of each month. Everyone is invited.

KCSARA Academy – Required course and enrichment classes, April 21-22 and May 5-6

2007 Washington State SAR Conference – Basic and advanced courses in all things SAR, May 14-20

NASAR Conference – Mostly management, some field courses, May 31-June 2

KCSARA Picnic – Free food and entry for all members and guests, September 9

SAR Scene – Canadian National SAR Conference, October 17-20

National Avalanche School, October 21-26

For more information and additional events: <http://kcsara.org/calendar/>

That being said, we will move ahead, staying positive to future challenges. We are King County. Heck, we can do just about anything we put our minds to.

HIT Squad

I know it's difficult to believe, but if you haven't yet heard, King County has purchased an external hoist for our helicopter. We are very interested in pursuing the addition of SAR volunteers with medical/technical experience to supplement the existing aircrew when deployed for a rescue mission.

A committee of Sheriff's Office personnel and SAR Volunteers have provided input regarding policies and procedures surrounding the Helicopter Insertion Team, or "HIT Squad". Applications for the volunteer positions on the squad have already been received and are being reviewed by Sgt. Jackson. Applicants who make the first cut will most likely be contacted by the County's Air Division for an interview. Sheriff's Office crew members will be the first to train with the hoist and they will then train the SAR medical/technical HIT Squad.

Training News

SAR Conference

The Washington State SAR Conference is again very close to home for 2007. Hosted by Pierce County, the conference will be held at Crystal Mountain Ski Area. Pre-conference courses run from May 14-18, while general conference classes run May 18-20. Festivities are usually held on Saturday evening and volunteers from all over the state, nation, and world tend to organize into social encampments in the campground at night.

King County Search And Rescue Association will reimburse members for

About King County Search And Rescue Association...

King County Search and Rescue Association is made up of more than 750 members who volunteer a considerable amount of time, personal equipment, and knowledge, to help those in need. Each year we respond to more than 100 missions ranging from

50% of the tuition, and many member units plan on reimbursing the other half for their members. Keep a receipt of your payment and provide a copy of that receipt to the KCSARA President or Treasurer along with your name, address, and SAR ID.

ICS Courses for Leadership

In addition to the IS-100 and IS-700 online classes required for all members, field team leaders and above are expected to have completed an online IS-200 class -- available from the same website. Further, operation Leaders and above are expected to have completed the IS-300 class -- available free as a pre-conference course at the 2007 Washington State SAR Conference. Links are available from the training section of KCSARA.org. There are no deadlines yet, but if you're a field team leader or above you might want to get a jump on the crowd.

KCSARA Training Records

Have you every wondered what training information King County Sheriff's Office has on file for you? Please check the training section of the KCSARA website for a downloadable report of training expiration dates by member.

For even more information, there's now a read-only version of the KCSARA-database available for you to look through. The database can be accessed at the 7300 building while Dpty. Decker, or Dpty. Barton, are in the office. Unit Training Directors, and any other interested individual can also use the same hardware to lookup the records of their unit's members.

If you plan on stopping in to use the database, please contact Dpty. Decker.

King County Sheriff's Office
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searching for missing children and adults in urban areas throughout King County, rescuing lost and injured recreationists in our forests and wilderness, and locating critical evidence at crime scenes for local law enforcement.