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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

Highlighted Contacts:

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Point Last Seen

The King County Search And Rescue Association newsletter for Fall, 2008

Presidential Aspirations?

No, this has nothing to do with the contest focused on that other Washington. We have a far more important decision to make – well, at least more local. This December King County Search And Rescue Association will vote in a new president to lead the organization for the next two years. Nominations need to be in by the November Governing Body meeting (Monday, November 14). If you would like to be considered for the position, or would like to nominate someone else, please get this information to KCSARA's Secretary, Mary Beebe, as soon as possible. To date, I have not heard anyone mention an interest, so the field is wide open. Make sure to check the KCSARA bylaws (www.kcsara.org/papers/) for the appropriate pre-requisites, and responsibilities, of the office.

Come Picnic With Us

KCSARA members celebrated with our neighbors-to-the-North at this year's Snohomish County Search And Rescue annual picnic. Unfortunately King County ended up having an evidence search mission the same day, but several of us still managed to make the event. We all had a great time in a beautiful location, with authentic BBQ and a side dish potluck. Assuming we didn't embarrass ourselves too badly in volleyball, hopefully we'll be invited back next year.

Our own picnic will be Sunday, September 7, at Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish. Food & drink – grilled burgers, chicken, and hotdogs with lots of fixin's – will be provided as usual. We're adding several fun and challenging competitions this year, so come represent your unit and have a great time with your fellow SAR members.

More information is available on the included flyer.

Support Your Unit, and Help KCSARA at the Same Time!

Every year KCSARA and our units participate in public events. Safety fairs, parades, expositions, small group talks, and even media events, make up a critical part of our public image. Many Units, even our largest, rely on these events for recruitment. KCSARA also relies on these events for keeping our name in the minds of the public.

You might know that KCSARA runs an acclaimed telephone pledge drive each year. Almost all of the funds from that pledge drive are disbursed to the units to help in the saving of lives. KCSARA has plans to dramatically increase the amount of those disbursements, through improvements to the pledge drive and grants from the community, and the public awareness from the events we attend is an important part of this plan.

A few of our units are blessed with their own successful fundraisers. Unfortunately, not all of our units are so lucky. Many rely on the disbursements from KCSARA for their annual operational expenses. By setting aside some time this year to help out at a public event or two, you'll be helping all of the units within KCSARA. Also, these events are a lot of fun!

Go Take A Hike

John Wartes, Rory Kelleher, and Bill Davis are organizing several group hikes this September and October, in and around the Pratt River Valley. The purpose behind these events is to hike as a group in an area where we frequently have missions. By getting familiar with the terrain and history, you will have a better idea of what you might come across later.

For more information, see contact Jon Wartes at jwartes@comcast.net.

Want to be an EMT?

Checkout the EMS section of the KCSARA website (www.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?

An Instructor course (a \$430 value) for CPR and First Aid is being planned now for this Winter. For information contact Joanne Bottenberg at (425) 829-1194.

KCSARA Calendar:

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

KCSARA Picnic—Free food, games, and entry for all members and guests. Sep 7.

International Snow Science Workshop, Sep 21-27

KCSARA Academy – Required course and enrichment classes, Sep. 27-28 and Oct. 11-12

SAR Scene – Canadian National SAR Conference, October 15-18

2009 Washington State SAR Conference—Basic and advanced courses in all things SAR, May 11-17

For more information and additional events: www.kcsara.org/calendar/

KCSARA's Fall Academy

It's that time of year again to check your records and make sure your training is current. KCSARA's Fall Academy will be held September 27-28 and October 11-12, again at South Seattle Community College. The most accurate, and easiest to access, records are your own – you do keep your own training records, don't you? If you don't keep your own training records, checkout <http://www.kcsara.org/training/> and navigate to "Personal Training Records". There you'll find information on accessing the KCSARA Online Database. If neither of those methods are your preference, contact your Unit's Training Director and ask for help.

Registration for the Fall Academy can be mailed or faxed in. An academy registration form has been included with this newsletter. Registering early for classes will help ensure you can attend should a class become full, and can help prevent a class from being cancelled due to lack of interest. So get those registration forms in soon.

Lastly, please note that when you register for a class, you will only be contacted if for any reason you do not get into the class. Sending every registrant confirmation is simply logistically not possible. So, if you register for a class, make sure you arrive for the class, unless you hear otherwise by email or pager. And remember, if you register and don't attend, you might have prevented someone else from not getting in as well, so make every effort to be there.

Staying On Top of Communications

The KCSARA Communications Committee has been one of our most active of late, and every member in the committee deserves kudos for his or her efforts. They've been staying on top of problems with our diverse callout system, adding functionality such as SMS and email notification, and continuing on a road map to a more stable future. The committee continues to receive new input and ideas, and have done a phenomenal job of continually evolving the current plan to match the new information. Committee members have also attended regional emergency services communication meetings to help make sure we're on the same page as local police, fire, and other emergency services with regards to communications.

Keep Up-to-date With the KCSARA Blog

We're no /Slashdot or Boing Boing, but KCSARA does have a blog – or "web-log" for those non net-savvy – that's posted to sometimes weekly, sometimes monthly. If you would like to keep a little more up-to-date on KCSARA and Search and Rescue in general, try checking out www.kcsara.com/blog/ and see what's being posted now.



About King County Search And Rescue Association...

King County Search and Rescue Association is made up of more than 500 active 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

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.