



ABOVE: TYPE 4 SEARCH TRAINING. PHOTO BY SEAN TAYLOR, SSAR

# Search Me A SARSAV Quarterly

Issue #2,  
April 2016

## IN THIS ISSUE

## President's Message

by Justin Capp

As we start into another operational year, here are a few updates on our ongoing work and the goals we have for the organization.

Presently SARSAV is at the end of year one (Y1) of a three (3) year SAR Communications NIF (New Initiative Fund). This project will see all SAR Chapters across the province on a collaborative communications system capable of RTT (real time tracking) and the ability to stay connected to every one of our SAR partners provincially. i.e.: RCMP, EMFS, EMS, EMO, CASARA and Parks. We anticipate some things coming soon!

The 2016 Sustainability Funding Request was received by EMFS on Mar 7<sup>th</sup> 2016; so now we wait for the request to be accepted and approved. This is not a settled matter nor is the process clear. Additionally, due to the election there may be some delays when dealing with whomever forms the new government. Regardless of who forms the government, SARSAV plans on having ongoing talks with those officials as

soon as possible.

SARSAV continues to maintain an open and respectful relationship with the RCMP at the provincial level, since they have the mandate for SAR in Saskatchewan. Procedures are in place to be able to provide professional assistance to the RCMP SAR Coordinator whenever required. [Outstanding matters include an MOU and Travel Reimbursement.](#)

Future vision for SARSAV includes:

- Emergency service assistance. There is a pilot project that is being looked at and could possibly be piloted and it's modeled around the THW.
- There needs to be a SAR Insurance Policy nationally and provincially.

In closing, I would like to thank all those who give of their time, sacrifice family and themselves so that others may live!



### Getting to know our members

Everyone in SAR has a story about how they got involved and what role SAR has played in his or her life. Meet Claire Enright, one of Wadena's long-serving members.

Page 2



### "I think we're doing this right"

We can also all relate to the problems that may happen during training – and the lessons learned along the way. Let's re-live this through the eyes of Jay Brown as he relates his training adventures.

Page 10

# My Story in Search and Rescue

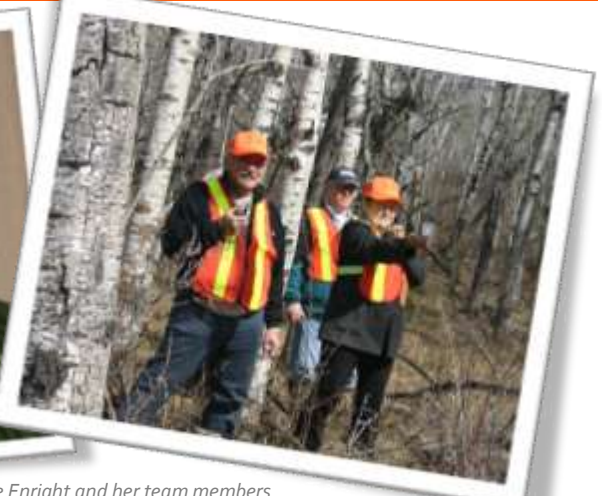
by Claire Enright, Wadena SAR

My name is Claire Enright, almost 65 years young. I have lived on a farm, married, raised 8 children, and have been involved with the Cadet organization for some 18 years now. Some of my life skills have been helpful with searches.

I became involved with Wadena's Search and Rescue back in 2005 when it first was formed. I believe it is a very important organization.

I have helped out in a few searches for people. One personally with my own child, when she was just two years old. Those frightening 20 minutes of not knowing where she was, before finding her safely playing in the neighbour's back yard, seemed like hours. At that time there was no Wadena SAR but luckily it was a happy ending.

The many practices that Wadena Search and Rescue have done are educational. One such evidence search exercise we were looking for dog bones. We were given a few facts and set out on our grid search. At the end of the day, no one could find any bones at all, including the



Claire Enright and her team members.  
Photos provided by WADSAR

man who planted them. It was concluded that wild life must have intervened. We all had a chuckle over that, but at the same time it was a learning exercise.

I was involved in a search for my neighbours' grandchild, and after looking for half an hour or so I went back to the frightened grandma, and got her to check the inside of her house again, because perhaps the little boy was sleeping or hiding. She assured me that he was not in the house but she went inside to look again. Sure enough, the boy had fallen asleep on the floor beside the bed out of immediate sight. Another happy ending.

One time we were called to help search for a young teenage runaway. The search ended well with the girl being found by our searchers. I also was involved with a search for an elderly woman. It helps to put your mind in a place where you would think that you might be, if you were in their shoes. After a couple hours search, all through town I spotted her on the ground in front of a parked truck and a garage. Many people had walked down that street looking for her, but it is important to really look. But have you ever looked for something, and look right at it but don't see it? It happens. The elderly woman was cold but coherent. The ambulance came and she taken to the hospital.

Not all are happy endings though. A while back I was helping out with a search for an elderly man driving a light

blue truck. This truck was similar in color to the light blue hives in the field. Many hours and many people were involved. A large area was covered, because this person was known to travel in any direction. Aircraft covered the area and could not spot him, perhaps because of the bush or the truck blending in with the color of the blue hives in the field. He was eventually found by a person on a snowmobile; unfortunately he was deceased. The family was relieved that we could help out with the search and appreciated our service.

I am glad to be involved with Search and Rescue.

I am always willing to give a helping hand when needed as long as I am able.

*Claire – Thank you so much for sharing your story! We can all relate to the events that you recalled here. We are very proud to have dedicated colleagues like you – and we hope to keep working with you for many years to come! – Ed.*

## RECOGNITION FOR MEMBERS WITH OUTSTANDING SERVICE

*Does your chapter have a long-serving member with a story like Claire's to share? Someone whose extensive SAR story deserves to be told? Please consider sending it for a future issue of Search Me – we would like to recognize one special member each issue.*



### All-Purpose Ready Mix

- 10 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp. salt
- 1/3 cup baking powder
- 2 cups shortening

Combine the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Then cut in the shortening with two knives or a pastry cutter. Pack mixture into a container and refrigerate, or keep in a cool place. Will keep for several months.

**Hot Biscuits:** Use 3 cups of mix, 1 egg and 1/2 cup of milk, cream or sour cream. Mix, knead; shape and cut, then bake at 400° for 12-15 minutes.

**Pancakes:** Use 1 1/2 cups of mix, 1 Tbsp. sugar, 1/2 cup of milk or water and 2 eggs. Mix lightly and griddle as usual. For apple or blueberry pancakes, add 1/2 cup of blueberries or peeled, chopped apples.

**Muffins:** Use 3 cups of mix, 1/4 cup of sugar, 1 cup of milk and 1 egg. Mix and spoon into greased muffin cups. Bake at 425° for 18-20 minutes. For blueberry muffins, add 1 cup of blueberries and 1/4 cup of sugar.

**Shortcake:** Use 6 cups of mix, 3/4 cup of sugar, 2 beaten eggs, 2/3 cup of milk or 15% cream and 1 tsp. vanilla or 1/2 tsp. of mace or nutmeg. Knead as for hot biscuits and pat into rounds to fit two buttered 8-inch cake pans. Brush top with melted butter. Bake at 450° for 15-18 minutes and let cool on a rack.

~ from Tracey Lagasse, Wood River SAR

#### FAST FACTS

52%

Of the population of SK lives in a community with a SARSAV Chapter, including Regina and Saskatoon

9%

Of the population lives in a community with a SARSAV chapter, NOT INCLUDING Regina and Saskatoon

## SAR and Social Media

by Bobbi Buchanan, SARSAV Vice-President

Social Media can refer to many different applications available to broadcast messages quickly to a wide audience or group of followers through various digital platforms. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, blogs, LinkedIn and more are a large part of how information, news, images, are broadcast quickly. Traditional media agencies, organizations, companies, non profits, and individuals all use these tools to communicate daily. As with any tool there are benefits and drawbacks to their use and responsible use is important. In Search and Rescue applications, social media can play an important role, and be a very useful tool when used responsibly.

### Social Media uses in SAR:

**Education & Awareness** – Social Media is a great platform for educating the public about Search and Rescue bringing awareness to the National, Provincial and Local teams with focus on what they do and how they all participate in the overall picture of SAR across Canada.

**Information** – On how and when to activate SAR. What to do in the event you or someone you know is lost or missing. Sharing information on when a team is deployed on a search, etc.

**Prevention** – Outdoor safety, survival tips and specific information to help everyone be better prepared for safe outdoor adventures and reach a broad audience through Social Media.

**Public Communications** – Public assistance/information requests from police during a search. Requesting the public to be on the lookout for a missing person has often been used with success to get the message and image of a missing person out and have many in a community watching for a person. This has been a valuable aid in SAR response. Social Media also contributes positively

to SAR by providing a platform for fundraising, as an aid to recruitment, and as a tool in investigation during active missing persons cases.

### Drawbacks to Social Media use in SAR:

Both a drawback and benefit is the speed and breadth of reach of Social Media. One person posts, and hundreds if not thousands of people see it instantly. There is little to no control over the audience. This may be helpful in an urgent alert for a missing child, but can also hinder as the alert can go out to way more than the area of the alert... causing the audience to tune them out.

This same benefit of reach in having hundreds of commuters looking for a missing person who may have taken the city bus can also be harmful to search activities. For example, if the exact location of a search is given and 100's of people converge on a location they can obliterate sign and tracks just before a SAR team arrives with a tracker team or a search dog... instead of gathering at a set place for a coordinated response.

Social Media releases have potential to interfere with investigations if certain information is released during a search that is of a sensitive nature, or could hamper investigations of a missing person. If a well-meaning citizen should post on social media that a missing person has been found deceased before their family or next of kin has been properly notified or before it is confirmed, this can be devastating. Imagine being the family member of a missing person, and finding out that information by social media in such a manner.

**Privacy/permission concerns** – Postings that violate privacy laws, or where permission is not properly obtained, can cause serious issues for the poster, and for the people in the image or post.



**Legalities** – Are there any laws that apply to the release or use of certain information? You can be held accountable for what you post.

### **Considerations for using Social Media:**

SAR responders, and those who manage SAR social media accounts, keep several things in mind when posting to social media. We strive to keep professional communications, to respect all laws, and to be respectful and responsible in all our interactions with public, AHJs, and stakeholders. Social Media is no different. Some of the things we consider when using social media in SAR:

**Acceptable use policies** – Read and understand your organization's Social Media policy.

**Privacy and other applicable legislation** – Do you have permission to post? When posting, do you have permission to use a person's name and photo? In an active search situation, all information released need to go through the Authority Having Jurisdiction's Media Relations Officer.

**Personal vs Organizational releases** – SAR teams' members are advised that, when they are posting on social media for a SAR team, they are not posting on behalf of themselves. This means care must be taken to ensure that personal opinions and family pictures, etc. are not inadvertently posted under their organization's account instead of their personal one.

Keep in mind the public nature of social media. What you post reflects on you and the organizations you represent; and once it is posted it is out there forever. (Even if you delete a post, others could have captured a screen shot or shared by other methods before your removed it.) So pause and think before posting.

**Misinformation** – Verify before posting. Did you check your source? Is that missing persons post or Amber Alert you shared current, or is it one from 3 years ago and the missing person was located already?

**Misunderstood information** – Is the message you wrote communicating exactly what you intended, or could it be misunderstood or be offensive?

**SAR agencies are not NEWS agencies** – There are plenty of agencies that are responsible for headlines. SAR teams and Associations should carefully consider the information posted and only share validated, approved information. This includes missing person reports from AHJs ( i.e., police) that point back to them as the source for verification and updates.

This is just a brief look at Social Media use in SAR and hopefully will give you a better idea of how and why it is used in regards to SAR. We have developed specific guidelines for release of information during and around search activities for SARSAV. These were developed with consultation of other SAR Associations, AHJs, our stakeholders, and our members.

If you would like to view SARSAV's Social media policy it is available on our website at <http://www.sarsav.ca>

SARSAV has a Facebook account <https://www.facebook.com/SearchandRescueSaskatchewan>

and Twitter account. @SearchNRescueSK

### HELP WANTED!!!

*Does your chapter have members who have been with SAR for more than 15 years? We wish to ensure these individuals receive proper recognition of this exemplary service! Please send their names and length of service to Tracey at [tlagasse@sasktel.net](mailto:tlagasse@sasktel.net).*



FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS FOR FUTURE ISSUES:

Send information and/or pictures to:

TRACEY LAGASSE, SARSAV SECRETARY  
[tlagasse@sasktel.net](mailto:tlagasse@sasktel.net)

*Practice, practice, practice!  
Photo by Sean Taylor, SSAR*

# AdventureSmart Report, 2015

by Linda Mushanski, Regional AdventureSmart coordinator  
skcoordinator@adventuresmart.ca

This has been a busy year again and I was able to the majority of the objectives I set for AdventureSmart. I want to thank all of those volunteers in SARSAV who have assisted me throughout the year.

A number of new trainers and presenters were trained this year. Tracy Van Brabant and Dale Hintz attended the Master Trainer's workshop at SARSCENE. Tracey has done one workshop for Saskatoon SAR and has another one planned for later in March to train new presenters for Porcupine Plain SAR. Dale assisted with the workshop held at the SARVAC workshop in November.

I continued to work with outside agencies to help promote the program. This included:

- Presenter workshop for Saskatchewan Parks Interpreters.
- Presenter workshop for Regina Public School Board Outdoor Education Teachers.
- Presenter workshop for Girl Guides of Canada.
- Presenter workshop for Estevan EMO.

In addition, SARSAV volunteers have made presentations to a variety of audiences and promoted AdventureSmart at various tradeshow and community events. The attached spreadsheet summarized the events recorded on the AdventureSmart website. In comparison to last year, there has been a 66% increase in presentations, 14% increase in volunteer hours and 250% increase in the number of people reached. Three SAR chapters in the province have also qualified for

the \$250 stipend in recognition of their efforts.

Other items completed this year include the production of posters to be used for display, especially in tradeshow, to promote AdventureSmart. These posters will be strategically placed around the province so they can be shared amongst the chapters. At present, there will be a set in Regina, Porcupine Plain, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Wood River. This is based on the chapters who have request materials for me and those doing presentations/promotions to date. I also put together a training bag with items to use for demonstration for Paddlesmart and Survive Outside, the funding coming from Canadian Safe Boating Association.

Objectives for next year:

1. Continue to increase the number of presentations in the province. **I need the assistance of all chapters in meeting this objective.**
2. Train more presenters. A number of those who had been trained in the past are no longer volunteers with SARSAV.
3. Continue to build an AdventureSmart subcommittee within SARSAV.
4. Start to train someone who can step into this position should the need arise.
5. Build more partnerships with organizations in the province. Any suggestions are welcomed.

## Upcoming events:

April 2 – AdventureSmart Coordinator Workshop - Newfoundland

April 2, 3 – Regina Outdoor sports Show – Booth paid for by SARVAC

April 16, 17 – Parkland Outdoor Show – Booth paid for by SARVAC

AdventureSmart presentations – Mar 9 – Hug a Tree- Regina

May 6 – Hug a tree/ Survive Outside – Regina

May 16 – Hug a Tree/Survive Outside – Carnduff Sk

July 10 to 16 – Survive Outside/PaddleSmart – Guiding Mosaic 2016, Sylvan Lake, Alberta

Oct 2016 – Attend SARScene in Edmonton

Also Saskatoon SAR has a number of presentations scheduled. A complete list to come.

## UPDATE FROM NIF COMMITTEE



## Communications

Terry Cherepuschak of Prairie Mobile Communications presented to SARSAV regarding the new radio systems that are being delivered to our chapters as part of the NIF grant. Samples were on display so that participants could get "hands on" with the models that will soon be delivered.

This equipment consists of 6 portable radios, 2 mobiles, 1 repeater, GPS tracking ability, power supply, and cabling.

Many thanks to the NIF Communications Committee and Prairie Mobile for the work put in to obtain this state-of-the-art equipment for all chapters.

The equipment will be distributed to chapters at a date and location still to be determined (as programming of the radios still needs to be completed.)

*Photo courtesy of Bobbi Buchanan, PPSAR*

## AROUND THE PROVINCE



## Command Post Projects

Porcupine Plain SAR is still working to meet their \$10 000 goal in order to refurbish and outfit their Command Post. Visit their GoFundMe page to help!

<https://www.gofundme.com/PPSAR>

Wood River SAR is working to obtain a trailer and outfit it as a Command Post. Help them by purchasing a PVA Cooling towel for \$20. The 12 in x 30 in towels come in blue, yellow or pink – all with the WRSAR logo. If interested, contact Tracey at [tlagasse@sasktel.net](mailto:tlagasse@sasktel.net)



## Honours for husband/wife team

The community of Dalmeny recently recognized Rick and Joanne Elder for their many contributions to public safety in the area over the last 25 years. Rick was also a SARSAV Board member and training coordinator.

Many thanks to you both for all that you have done for your community, for North Corman Park SAR, and for SARSAV. Congratulations!

## THINKING OF...

*our colleagues with the La Loche Dene Trackers SAR team, and the entire community, who were affected by the tragedy at the La Loche Community School.*

## Meet the Chapters: MJSAR

*In discussions regarding our newsletter, we thought that this would be a good way to get to know a bit about one another. Each issue, we will interview 1-2 chapters, chosen by random draw. ~ Ed.*

**Q. When and how was your group started?**

A. Moose Jaw Search & Rescue Inc. really got off the ground in 1997. This came to being, when Fern [Paulhus]'s 8 year old daughter went missing from school in that same year. Prior to MJ SAR, in 1994 there was a rescue team called the MJ Snow Drifters which went back since 1986.

**Q. How many members do you currently have? Do you have any special teams?**

A. At present, we have 34 active members with 4 members as standby. We do have specialty teams: snow machine team, dive team, bike team, watercraft team, and traffic controllers.

**Q. How many searches did you participate in last year?**

A. For the Fiscal Year 2015, MJ SAR participated in 4 searches - Apr, Jun, Jul and Aug.

**Q. What are some of your group's biggest accomplishments?**

A. Over the years that MJ SAR has been in existence, we have participated in every local and surrounding community organized events. With this exposure, people are more aware of who we are, where we are and why we are. We are now reaping the benefits of this process by signing on 11 new members to our organization for the Fiscal Year 2015.

**Q. What are some of your chapter's biggest challenges?**

A. Our biggest challenges for MJ SAR, is finding a permanent home for our vehicles and equipment. Property and buildings are at a premium, therefore, we are only afforded temporary stay for our vehicles. What we need is a "SUGAR DADDY" to sponsor us now and into the future. Recruitment of more younger people to join our fold, as our existing members are starting to climb up in age, if not there already. Come to think of it, we may have started a new specialty team, the scooter patrol.

**Q. What are your goals for the immediate future?**

A. Our goal for the immediate future is to have the 11 new members qualified as Team Leaders this Fiscal Year.

## Search Dog Basics Course - Regina, June 3-5

Mary-Ann Warren, member of SAR Dog Association of Alberta and trainer with Precision Search Dog, will be in Regina hosting a Basic Search Dog Seminar on June 3-5.

She will also be holding a Search Dog Boot Camp on May 28-29 for those who have already had training.

More information can be found on the Precision Search Dog website at

<http://www.precisionsearchdog.com/>

*Below: SSAR member Dale Johnstone and his dog Boomer, during last year's Search Dog Basics course. Read his blog post about the SAR dog training at*

<http://saskatoonsearchandrescue.org/search-dog-basics/>



# Sorry, but we can't talk about it

Reprinted with permission from West Mercia Search and Rescue (UK)  
wmsar.org.uk

Search and Rescue teams are called out by the emergency services when someone is in dire need of specialist help. More often than not for us that need is related to a mental health condition of some sort – dementia, suicidal or self-harm intentions, learning difficulties – meaning that the person is at much higher risk than normal.

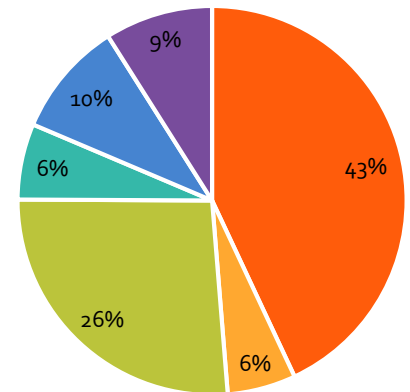
But that leaves us with a duty of care to that person which extends beyond the mere searching for, and bringing to safety. We also have a duty to offer them continued protection by not giving any information which might link their name to a medical condition or the reason we searched for them.

It's for that reason that we have a policy not to talk about any case where we are involved with an individual. We can talk freely about our work with floods, physical injuries, and we can share Police appeals for missing persons... but the majority of our work is dealing with vulnerable individuals, and you'll not hear us talk about that.

Which gives us a bit of an interesting situation. If we're completely honest, in rescue teams, callouts equate directly to spontaneous donations (That's why Mountain Rescue teams often post details of injured walkers). If people see we're doing something in the community it can drive them to donate, which helps us keep going. So being able to talk about what we're doing is important for us – it engages our social media followers and the public – and we often see a little spike in donations when we're mentioned in the press or by the Police.

And that's why we try to balance the "Sorry, but we can't talk about it..." position with one of "CALLOUT!" announcements that are very often not followed up by any more information. It can be frustrating for the public, our members and the press, and considered a bit of a tease on our behalf; but that's the rules we work by – the vulnerable person comes first, the charity second.

2015 Volunteer Hours by Category



- Training
- Prevention
- Administration
- Fundraising
- Searches (including Standby)
- Community Events

## SARSAV by the Numbers, 2015

by Bobbi Buchanan, SARSAV Vice-President

In the last newsletter, we reported on search statistics and number of search events that SARSAV teams participated in across Saskatchewan. All of our numbers were not in at the time of publication of the Newsletter, so here is a broader picture of what professional volunteer SAR teams with SARSAV have been busy doing this past year.

We currently have 18 active SAR teams in Saskatchewan, with 355 members.

**In 2015 SAR teams spent a total of 18,909 volunteer person – hours!**

6,844 hours in Training  
907 hours in Prevention  
4,194 hours in Administration  
1,004 hours Fundraising  
1,531 hours in Searches including standby  
1,429 hours Community Events – EMO assit, fundraisers, promoting SAR in their community.

*\*This does not include Logistics and Meeting hours. (These categories were not reported by all chapters.)*

Statistics are important to show the contribution and the value that each SAR responder brings to the overall picture of SAR. From response to

education and prevention, there is strength in numbers and we provide trained volunteer capacity through SARSAV members across Saskatchewan. SAR Volunteer person-hours are reported quarterly to SARVAC.

Did you know that each member of SARSAV is also a member of SARVAC (Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada)? Not only do our professional trained volunteers play a vital role in Saskatchewan SAR, they are also part of a national team of Professional SAR Volunteers totaling over 300 teams with 12,000 volunteers who spend over 100,000 hours training and log over 300,000 person-hours on searches annually.

(source: [www.sarvac.ca](http://www.sarvac.ca))

Check out SARVAC by the Numbers Video:

<https://youtu.be/7MoRiOC6GDU>



# CISARIS / KMS

by Bobbi Buchanan, with information provided by NSS and Public Safety Canada

SEARCH AND RESCUE  
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM



SYSTÈME DE GESTION  
DES CONNAISSANCES EN  
RECHERCHE ET SAUVETAGE

In 2014 SARSAV signed a MOU with NSS (National Search Secretariat) for use of Canadian Inland Search and Rescue Information System (CISARIS) / SAR Knowledge Management System (SAR KMS). SARSAV has been actively using this system since 2015.

## What is CISARIS?

Canadian Inland Search and Rescue Information System (CISARIS) is an online ground and inland water search and rescue incidents reporting tool for Canadian SAR response organizations. Access is secured and granted by the NSS. One contact within each chapter has access to enter data into CISARIS for searches that their chapter is activated on only with oversight and access by a Provincial Administrator (SARSAV President and Vice President).

The system captures: \*date \*times \*locations of incidents \*age range \*gender \*activity of persons involved \*contributing factors or probable causes of incidents \*weather conditions at the time of occurrence and experienced during SAR operations \*details of the response \*types and numbers of resources used \*common challenges encountered during missions. The data entered into CISARIS feeds into SAR KMS.

**NO confidential or protected data is reported or collected.**

## What is the Search and Rescue Knowledge Management System (SAR KMS)?

SAR KMS is a secure web portal for improving national access to authoritative information.

- Provides the means for sharing, analyzing, and viewing comprehensive time-sensitive SAR

information across the Government(s) of Canada; and

- Builds the foundation for the transition to an integrated National SAR Information Sharing Network.

**The mission of the Search and Rescue Knowledge Management System (SAR KMS) is to promote effective and efficient national Search and Rescue programs by the continuous improvement in the quality and integrity of shared Search and Rescue (SAR) information across Canada.**

Working in partnership with SAR stakeholders to consolidate, aggregate, and analyze data in order to build useful tools to assist stakeholders in identifying opportunities to improve their capabilities.

The SAR KMS represents a major initiative by the National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS) to provide such data analysis capabilities.

## SAR KMS aims to achieve these objectives:

- Support authoritative evidence based policy and program decisions
- Promote more effective and efficient planning, response, risk and resource management
- Maintain a coordinated, effective, world class search and rescue capability
- While minimizing impact on SAR Responder workload.

SARSAV benefits from the use of KMS as it greatly enhances our strategic level understanding of SAR policy or program activities in the province/region as it:

- Supports' planning activity - Measurement drives change and enables achievement and as such is essential in aligning resources with goals, objectives and priorities.
- Highlights the gaps between reality and goals - The SAR KMS will show where/how SARSAV is responding based on the incident and resource data collected by SARSAV and through the SAR KMS. The aggregate reports can show which areas are successful or need improvement to meet our goals.
- Provides benchmarking based on national best practices - The SAR KMS will allow the free-flow of knowledge and processes from organizations across Canada, as such industry best practices regionally and nationally, which can be identified and assimilated into SARSAV.
- Becomes a process improvement tool - The SAR KMS will be able to establish baseline information from historical data, map existing measures, and show their impact in a strategic timeframe.
- Demonstrates whether the right things are being measured - The SAR KMS can provide a measure of the factors that most influence successful programs or policy. The SAR KMS will assist in making better, more informed decisions, guide and manage shifts in direction, and keep the SARSAV focused on important goals.

*SAR KMS is a National SAR Program; Many Jurisdictions, one Horizontal Program. Key objectives hinge on availability and richness of SAR data and SARSAV is glad to be a part of the contribution to this National Program.*



- Demonstrates results and prudent use of resources - The SAR KMS will enable organizational transparency and accountability, through demonstrated results. In short it will enable SARSAV's SAR units to demonstrate how they provide an impact with available resources.
- Supports funding requests - The SAR KMS is capable of putting a cost value on each incident, through comprehensive aggregation of all the responding SAR resources used including federal and emergent resources. More importantly, the SAR KMS can generate reports on the overall impact of SAR organizations, by tracking how many people were aided, or how many lives were saved and the type/organizational owner of resources used. Additionally it can track the trends in incidents, and show if prevention initiatives are having an effect in a given region.
- Assist in communicating with the public - The reporting tools of the SAR KMS will allow SARSAV to target elevated risk groups, and produce regional, provincial statistics. The reporting tools also provide for Canadian statistics to leverage in prevention initiatives.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

#### **SARSAV Meeting Dates for 2016:**

*June 11, September 10, December 3*

*All meetings held at the Travelodge Hotel, Saskatoon, starting at 0930h.*

#### **Multi-Jurisdictional Search Exercise:**

*May 13-15, Coderre, SK*

*Numbers of attendees from each chapter must be sent to Tracey Lagasse at [tlagasse@sasktel.net](mailto:tlagasse@sasktel.net) by April 22.*

## Clue Awareness



**WHEN YOU SEE IT  
IT CAN NEVER BE UNSEEN**

SHITBRIX.COM



**SITUATIONAL  
AWARENESS**

It's paramount to your personal safety



### New Fundraising Chair: Curt Schroeder, SARR

I am still getting my feet wet in this position. I have some ideas on how we can move forward with some funding opportunities, and some other board members have approached me offering to help. I also just got elected to the SAR Regina board, so I hope to contribute there as well.

I am relatively new to the search and rescue field, however because of my outdoor experience and sense of adventure I feel that I can make a contribution here as well. I am currently taking a course in HAM radio operations and hope to get my license in the next couple of months. I think this will add to my contribution to the search and rescue field.

I teach full-time at Saskatchewan Polytechnic in the education technology field. I also work part time at Cabela's in Regina, where I typically work the optics and knives counter but also occasionally the gun counter. I look forward to serving the search and rescue community, and in particular SARSAV.

**"NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS."  
-MARGARET MEAD**



At left: SSAR Member Jay Brown, getting ready for a near water search exercise.

Above: Constructing a shelter during training.

Photos courtesy of Jay Brown, SSAR

## 5 Things I learned in SAR Training

by Jay Brown, SSAR

Editor's note: This is an excerpt of the original blog

post. It can be read in its entirety at <http://www.saskhiker.com/#!/blog/cflx>

For the past several months I have been working with Saskatoon SAR training to become a Basic Searcher within the organization. This volunteer group is full of everyday citizens whose motto is, "so others may live."

The purpose of the organization is to assist law enforcement and other government agencies to locate and assist lost members of the public from everything to urban and rural locations. Members of the organization are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. When I started with the organization I knew that my experiences spending time in nature would be asset, but as I have worked my way through training I have learned that I am short on a few skills.

These are a few things that I have learned during my Search and Rescue Training.

### 1) I sound like an idiot on the radio

A large part of an effective search and rescue operation is communication. There are numerous teams out in the field and a Command Post that is tasked with coordinating them all. In order to ensure effective communication we need to radio back to Command with the things we find and any other updates that will assist in the search effort.

Now, the way you talk on the radio is you first say the name of the person you are wanting to speak to, then your name. So for example "Command, this is Team Bravo" and then you wait for a response before proceeding with your message. However, whenever I get on the radio I feel like I am back in middle school on opening night of a school play.

My exchanges usually go like this, "Team Bravo this is Command. Crap, I am not Command. Ummm... I mean Command this is Team.... wait what is our team name again?"

### 2) There is a reason I get lost so often

I have used compasses out on my hikes in the past, but not much more than just knowing which way is north and trying to work backwards from there on a map. While this is helpful, I have since learned a hundred more uses for a compass.

One of these uses quickly taught me that my compass was not adequate. My current model doesn't allow for declination adjustments. For those just as uninformed as I was about the term "declination" it is the difference between magnetic north and the true north gridlines on a map. The magnetic north pole is not constant and is continually on the move. In order to read a map correctly with a compass you need to take this into consideration.



Hopefully, I can take some of my new skills and become lost a little less often out on the trails.

### **3) I can make a pretty good shelter out of a tarp**

During field training we practice survival skills that may come in handy one day. One of these skills is building a shelter out of a limited pack.

So with only a few tent pegs, a tarp and some paracord and the resources around us we were tasked with building a shelter that would keep us comfortable throughout the night. My team member and I worked together to build an a-frame shelter that kept the both of us pretty cozy. We met for the first time that day, but nothing brings two people closer together than spending the night under a tarp.

The worst part – both of us having to get up and pee during the night and not try and wake the person up. I don't think we were too successful.

### **4) Growing up with three brothers has prepared me to handle a lot of injuries**

There are two parts to Search and Rescue: first, we need to find a patient; second, we need to care for them. That means having First Aid skills that could potentially save someone's life.

I am the youngest of four brothers who all grew up playing sports and doing the normal things boys do growing up on the prairies. Our one sister was smart enough to not involve herself with our shenanigans. During First Aid training I couldn't help myself from bringing up the injuries my brothers and I have had.

We as kids experienced everything from broken bones, dislocated shoulders, torn ligaments, concussions and nasty cuts. Growing up with these idiots is paying off a lot more than I thought since I now have experience handling a pretty wide range of injuries.

I have added a lot more skills to my First Aid bank, such as CPR, and I feel much more confident that I will be able to make the right decisions. Don't worry I won't treat patients the same as I would my brothers and laugh at them for getting hurt.

### **5) Teamwork is the necessity of crisis**

Since I have just completed my training I have yet to go on an actual call, in the meantime Search and Rescue uses scenario training to keep our skills sharp. Search and Rescue is the epitome of teamwork as it requires everyone working together to successfully complete a task.

During one such exercise we conducted a Search and Rescue scenario for someone lost in the woods of the South Saskatchewan River Valley. This was treated as a live scenario with two teams working together to search a designated area. Command was set up and coordinating us as we searched for our lost patient.

The team I was working with found the lost patient who was not breathing and unresponsive. While our patient was only a plastic dummy it felt real enough to get the adrenaline really flowing. Immediately the team went into action with two members beginning chest compressions while our Team Leader and I began coordinating with Command to get EMS to the site.

Each one of us became locked into our tasks and while we were hesitant about the decisions we were making, we knew we needed to stick to the plan we had generated.

After scenarios are completed we spend time as a team reflecting on what we did wrong and what we did right. It is amazing the things you forget to do when a crisis happens, things as simple as not ditching our backpacks during chest compressions or all of sudden not being comfortable relaying GPS coordinates.

However, that is why we train so we can make the mistakes when it is a plastic dummy and not when it is a member of the community.

These are just a few things I have learned during my time training with Search and Rescue. I am looking forward to learning even more skills with the team. While I hope I am never called to help someone, because this means they are in trouble, I know that with the support of my team we will do our best to bring someone home.

*Jay: Thanks for sharing your humorous take on training! Reading this brings back many memories of our own first experiences. ~ Ed.*

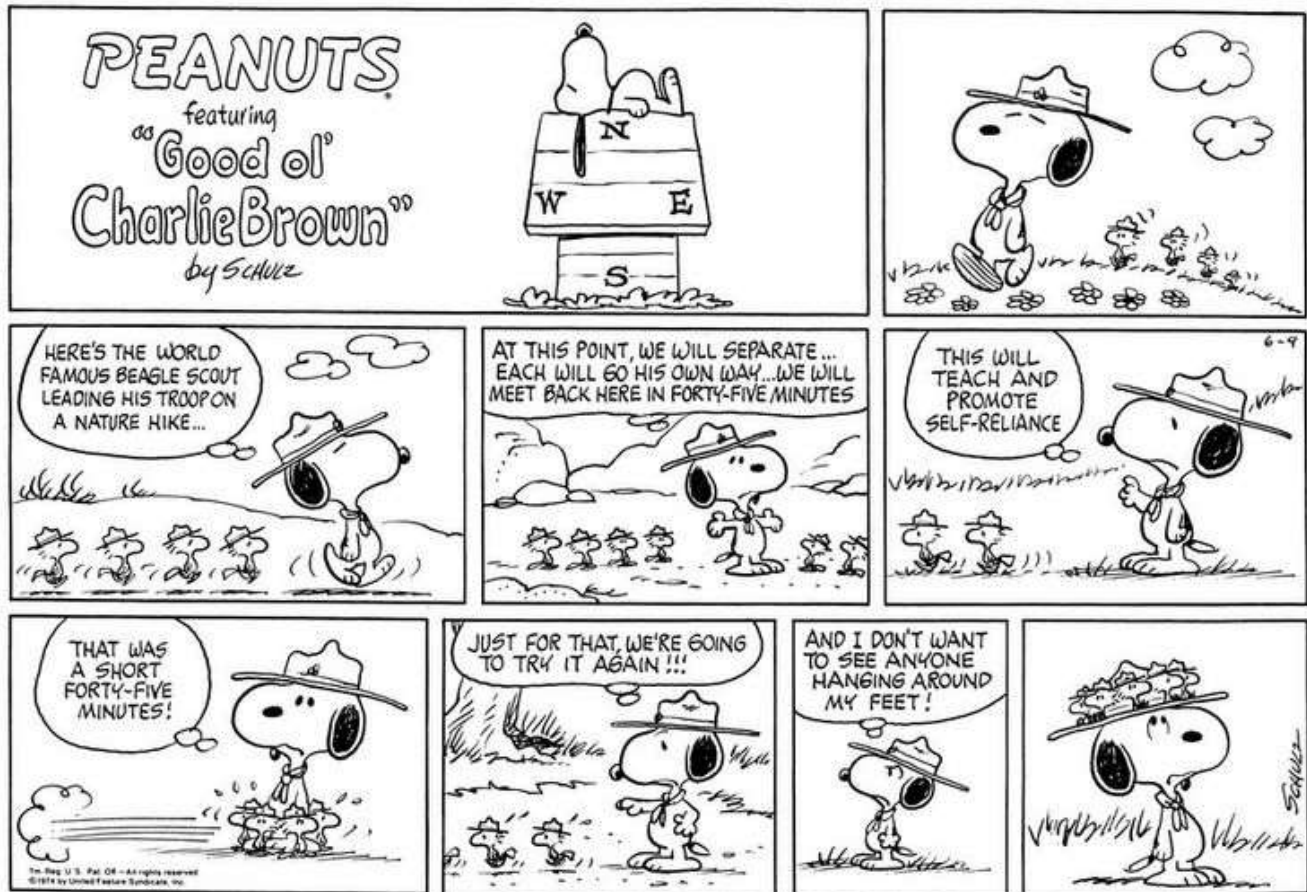
## Helping out...

In March 2015, Saskatoon Search and Rescue obtained charitable status. This has greatly benefited their ability to raise funds. It was an essential component of their crowd funding campaign last May and has been a key element in recent corporate and private donations. SAR Chapters who are interested in applying for charitable status are welcome to contact SSAR for advice on "lessons learned" during the application process.

Saskatoon Search and Rescue and the Saskatoon Police Service will be hosting a Mental Health First Aid course on September 17-18. The course is very valuable to SAR members as it teaches how to help people developing a mental illness or in a crisis. Members of all Saskatchewan SAR Chapters are welcome to attend. Cost for SAR members will be approx. \$35 to cover the cost of course materials. (Note: this course normally costs approx. \$180 so this is a great opportunity for our members.) Further details and registration information will be made available once they are finalized.



# On the lighter side...



## SARSAV 2016 Executive

**President** – Justin Capp, NFTC GSAR  
**Vice President** – Bobbi Buchanan, Porcupine Plain SAR  
**Secretary** – Tracey Lagasse, Wood River SAR  
**Treasurer** – Robert Smith, Prince Albert North SAR

## SARSAV 2016 Directors

Sherry Buller, Saskatoon SAR  
 Pat Casement, Wadena SAR  
 Kelly Giles, Buckland Fire and Rescue  
 Ian McNeil, La Loche Dene Trackers  
 Kent Orosz, Saskatoon SAR  
 Curt Schroeder, SAR Regina  
 Scott Wright, North Corman Park SAR & Saskatoon SAR

*Many thanks to Larry Deacon and Rick Elder for their years of service to the SARSAV Board. And many thanks to Kate Davis for all your work as the Communications NIF manager. We appreciate all of the expertise you both brought to our organization, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.*



Visit our website!

[www.sarsav.ca](http://www.sarsav.ca)



Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/SearchandRescueSaskatchewan/>



Follow us on Twitter!

@SearchNRescueSK

An actual picture of our 2016 Board. (Missing: Ian McNeil, Scott Wright)

