



ABOVE: SSAR MEMBERS TRAINING AT BLACKSTRAP LAKE. PHOTO BY REBECCA BASSET

Search Me

A SARSAV Quarterly

Issue 1,

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to *Search Me*

by Justin Capp, SARSAV President

Welcome to the first ever issue of *Search Me*. It is our Board's hope that this will be a forum by which to pass on details of what is happening around the province, and make our face-to-face meeting times more discussion-oriented. It has come together because of the contributions of many. I encourage you all to consider putting in something, no matter how small, for future issues.

2015 was met with some new opportunities for us as an organization, in terms of the assistance we provided to EMFS for the fire response. This meant navigating new, uncharted waters; lessons were learned, and we hope that our role in emergency response will be better defined because of it.

We welcome Kim Audette back into the role of RCMP SAR Coordinator, and look forward to working with her in the coming year. And many thanks and best wishes to Pete Garvey, whose career path has recently led him elsewhere.

One major challenge we face moving into a new year is our sense of useful-

ness. We understand that it can be frustrating for you as searchers as well as your chapters to "hurry up and wait" when we hear of missing persons; as a Board, we share your frustrations. After all, we are all in this to help those in need. We are working as expeditiously as possible to build positive conversations that will alleviate these frustrations for the future. Keeping that in mind, we don't want to push so far, so fast, that we end up burning the bridges that it has taken so long to build.

As the holiday season is upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you and your respective chapters for the time and effort that you invest in SAR every year. YOU make this truly an association of volunteers – you are at the core of what our organization does. If you have concerns, or suggestions as to how to improve SARSAV as a whole, please bring them forward to us.

On behalf of the SARSAV Board of Directors, I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2016. ~ Justin



SARVAC Conference

Above: Did YOU notice the gorilla? The Clue Awareness session by Cliff Samson of Manitoba's Office of the Fire Commissioner reminded us of how easily things are missed if we aren't looking for them.

Below: Ian Gilson of the Canadian Safe Boating Council led participants in the practice of Hypothermia Wraps. He also demonstrated what happens when someone experiences circum-rescue collapse. Check out www.beyondcoldwaterbootcamp.com for more information. Photo by Katrina Wright, SSAR.



SEPA Conference

by Pat Casement, SARSAV Director



First, the good news. SEPA was very receptive to having SARSAV Chapters engage with Community EM Organizations. As with all organizations, trained volunteers are scarce and additional support in emergency events would be more than welcome.

I was able to make the case to have our organization give a presentation at next year's conference which will be Nov. 1-4, 2016 at the Travelodge in Saskatoon. We have been penciled in and it was suggested we should have a member run for the SEPA Board of Directors. I can see real value in making this happen. Please consider this report as your invitation to put your name forward to be that person.

Items of interest to SARSAV:

Ray Unrau, City of Saskatoon EM Coordinator presented a program called "Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment" (HRVA). This tool could be used by chapters to identify and prioritize inherent risks in their jurisdiction and set up their safety response protocols accordingly. We do this now on the basis that we know what's out there and we prepare for it. This program is more about the process and the discussion around safety issues than it is about creating a safety plan. The end result should be kept on file and updated every couple of years to reflect the changing demographics in your area.

There was a presentation by H2 Safety Services from Calgary. They are a mapping and dispatch software company who provides the ability to dispatch and track responders, providing mapping support to their cell phones as well as laptops. Their program was designed for the pipeline industry but it had potential; with some modification to be a useful tool in our world.

Jean Longpre, Federal/Provincial Program Coordinator, gave a presentation on a new provincial emergency alert program. This program is called SaskAlert. This program provides First Alert capabilities both nationally and provincially. It is firstly broadcast driven but is also available through cell phone apps. There are different levels of alerts that can be put out through this system. I would suggest that if a community had an active search in play, they could send out an information alert that would go to all SARSAV members. This would NOT be a call out. This would be an alert only. The normal procedures would still be followed but at least members, province wide, would know a search is in progress and the potential of a call out may be imminent depending on location. This would be far better than hearing about it two days later on the news.

Duane McKay, Commissioner of Emergency Management and Fire Safety, gave a report on the Northern Fires. He admitted that there were shortfalls in the process but at the same time considering the magnitude of the event felt that overall the responders did an excellent job. Kudo's included SARSAV.

He went on to describe the Government's new brain child, the creation of the Civil Service Response Team. This group of responders are drawn from the ranks of government and are trained and tasked in support roles for emergency response. This rankled a bit as this new crew came equipped with turn out gear and uniforms paid for from the public purse while our crew were there in their own

gear and on their own nickel. Having said this, the Commissioner went on to hint that the Government is considering opening this group up to the private sector. This may be a chance for all our SAR personnel to join and get all the perks that go with, just saying...food for thought! How do you spell "free insurance"?!

One last program the Commissioner touched on was a high school program called ERTS. This program is accredited and delivered through the high schools who partner with first responders in their community for their field training. I would suggest that chapters get in touch with their high school and make sure SAR is part of that program.

Although it is clear that SARSAV is still considered the poor cousin in the eyes of province, I was left with the impression that now is a window of opportunity to explore joint ventures with the provincial Emergency Measures Organization. This opinion was expressed to myself by several of the SEPA board as they recognized the professional conduct of our responders in the Northern Fire Event.

Stay Safe. ~ Pat

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

SARSAV Meeting Dates for 2016:

March 12 (AGM), June 11,
September 10, December 3

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

VISUAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SARVAC CONFERENCE...



Project Lifesaver

Led by Randy Antonio of Winnipeg SAR, participants got outside for a demonstration of a personal locator system used to find missing persons from vulnerable populations.

Photo courtesy of Sean Taylor, SSAR



Communications

Terry White (call sign VE5TLW) of ARES Regina, shared his years of experience in radio and communications by informing the audience of various options for SAR.

Photo courtesy of Sean Taylor, SSAR



Fire and Shelter Building

Paul French of SARVAC led an interactive course on designing a simple shelter. He also focused on a number of substances which have useable for fire starting, and on knot-tying. This table group successfully created their shelter support.



SARVAC President, and SARSAV Board Member, Scott Wright opens the 2015 SARVAC GSAR Conference in Saskatoon on November 6.
Photo by Sean Taylor, SSAR

Reflections on SARVAC Workshop

by Dale Liebrecht, SSAR

Editor's note: This is an excerpt of the original blog post. It can be read in its entirety at <http://saskatoonsearchandrescue.org>

This past weekend I attended the National SARVAC Workshop in Saskatoon. As a new Saskatoon Search and Rescue (SSAR) recruit, I wasn't sure what to expect. The weekend was filled with many engaging opportunities to meet with other volunteer SAR professionals across Canada. I experienced many moments of profound admiration for the organization as the conference evolved.

One of the images etched into my mind was the quiet confident glow of our longtime outgoing National SARVAC president Harry Blackmore. I regret not sitting down and having a conversation with him. His demeanor was reminiscent of a man that has successfully navigated several layers of local, provincial and federal government with unwavering persistence. His leadership has positioned our organization with a sustainable level of support which will serve Canadian citizens far into the foreseeable future.

SSAR member Scott Wright is now the new president. Scott had many opportunities to speak as he was one of the key people driving the workshop to a successful conclusion. Although I had very limited exposure to him, it was easy to see that he is a friendly, knowledgeable person with the natural ability to lead. He created a comfortable environment for all of us to mix and share ideas.

One of the workshops I attended, Project Lifesaver, had a device that could locate a person with the help of a small transmitter worn by an individual. It was a little bigger than a watch. We simulated a search by sending out a member with a 10-minute head start outside the building. Using a hand-held Yagi antenna which looked like a radar gun, we proceeded to determine a bearing by listening to the strength of successive tones. The unit works very well. Randy Antonio, the Winnipeg SAR member who did the demonstration, indicated that they have successfully used the system in many places. This might be something to consider as our organization evolves. I think funding may be a challenge for many of these pieces of valuable technology.

The hypothermia demonstration was very interesting. The presenter from Ontario was working with information provided by a hypothermia researcher from Manitoba. One of the many takeaways was to protect the insulated materials that are layered onto the subject with plastic to ensure they don't get soaked. These items lose their heat containing properties when wet! We also identified the phases a person will go through when in a cold water scenario. So many details were shared and hopefully will stay retained.

An RF engineer did the presentation on radios. A very thorough run through of radio technology. The presenter mentioned that he is a member of CASARA (Civil Air Search and Rescue). Interesting. I will have to find some time to do some reading and look them up. About the only thing I know about them is that they fly around in airplanes and search from above. I am sure there are many more details I will learn over the next year.

AdventureSmart ... hmmm ... what's that? I attended a session describing this very important program. The idea behind it is to attempt to give kids the tools to survive being lost in an unfamiliar environment. The most important ingredient hammers home the message of prevention. (How to not get lost in the first place!) A brilliant dramatic re-enactment was shown to demonstrate how kids can be empowered to be a part of their own rescue.

The clue awareness session was very entertaining yet educational at the same time. We were shown a video of people passing around a basketball and were asked to count how many times this had been done. I became hyper focused on following the ball. Unfortunately, this completely eliminated my peripheral vision. Ugh! We were all asked if we saw the giant gorilla. Yes, it turns out that, in the middle of this short video, a large man in a gorilla suit walked slowly through the middle of the frame. Lesson learned! You can look for something specific, but don't let that bias impede your ability to locate other clues. Keep your periphery intact!! We also watched a "Who Dunit" video. This one made me laugh. It was informative!

Unfortunately, I didn't get to see the lecture from Environment Canada. I stood in the hall for a while after one of my other sessions for about the last 15 minutes. It looked very well presented and would be advantageous to gain this knowledge.

I attended ICS (Incident Command System) training and we got a little more than we asked for. We covered all of the material and then some! We had a practical conversation about how ICS plays out in the real world. The speaker was open to discuss the challenge of getting many different organizations to work together. A firefighter was present at this session who helped fight the northern fires last summer. A discussion ensued that debated the finer points of ICS. I am taking ICS 100 and 200 soon and I felt this session has given me a solid foundation.

One of the strange things I admire about the SAR group is their unusual predictability. It's Saturday night, we just had an amazing meal; everyone has a full stomach and is a bit sleepy. Shall we go home and fall asleep in front of our favorite TV show? Nope! How about a hike in the pitch black wilderness to attempt to understand the better aspects of using a FLIR during a night mission. My kind of people!

On a solemn note, there was a point after supper that they played a video of Search and Rescue volunteer professionals that have lost their lives while training or on a mission. It was a very emotional video.

I know that I have only shared a small part of a jam-packed weekend. It was a pleasure to spend it with so many outstanding people from across the country.

Dale: Thanks for sharing your thoughts! Glad to hear it was a positive experience. Welcome to the SAR family! ~ Ed.

FAST FACTS

71%

The number of SARSAV chapters represented at the SARVAC GSAR conference in Saskatoon from November 6-8, 2015.

At home...

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. These were tried on a number of occasions by WRSAR members this summer (including during training) – they work GREAT! Can be delivered at the March AGM. If interested, contact Tracey at tlagasse@sasktel.net

Dale Johnstone took the time and energy to develop a presentation for the SARVAC conference on designing and developing chapter-level training programs. Dale has been directly and indirectly involved with SSAR's training committee for several years. The presentation was very well received. If you didn't get a chance to attend, Dale would be happy to send you a copy of his presentation and further information. Email him at ssar.dalej@gmail.com

New SSAR member Dale Liebrecht, through his work, has access to a FLIR so our team was able to try out this technology during a night search exercise in November. <http://www.sartactical.blogspot.ca/2015/11/hypo-wrap-with-flir.html>

IN MEMORIAM...

In October, Highway 55N lost a long-time member, Joan Sajtos, to her battle with cancer. Our deepest sympathies to the Sajtos family, as well as her colleagues at Hwy55NSAR.

AdventureSmart Quarterly Report

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



We have been fortunate this fall with exceptionally mild weather. Mother Nature has kept Old Man Winter at bay, allowing everyone to enjoy the outdoors. I know I have taken advantage of it, going for interesting drives on back roads and taking two very energetic dogs for runs on a regular basis. Every time I venture out, I take a moment to think about my three T's, telling someone where I am going, ensuring that I am staying within my limits with the training and experience I have and double checking that I have packed my essentials just in case the unexpected happens.

With the number of new citizens coming to our province on a daily basis, it is becoming more and more important that the volunteers in SARSAV offer the AdventureSmart suite of programs. Many come from countries that do not have our type of climate or terrain and it can be easy for them to find themselves in a bad situation very quickly. Many come from heavily populated areas; the biggest adjustment is the great distances in our province where there can literally be no one. This, coupled with the mild weather we are having, is making it more and more important that we do our presentations.



New video for Hug-a-Tree

At the SARVAC conference in November, the new Hug-a-Tree and Survive video was previewed. It was filmed this past summer in Winnipeg. The new video will soon be uploaded to the AdventureSmart website for presenters to use – watch for details regarding its release!

I just want to share with you what I have done that has enabled me to get the AdventureSmart message out to the public. I am sure you are already doing most of these things and this will just reinforce your efforts. If you have any ideas or something

- Go to your local school and talk to the principal or if you have a school board office in your community, talk to the superintendent. I can provide you with a chart that shows how the AdventureSmart programs fit into the school curriculum. Time periods like just before spring break are ideal times for presentations as the teachers are always looking for something different for the students. Also, if you have a class going on a ski trip – offer the Survive Outside snow program. Just be sure to give at least one month's lead time so the teachers can adjust their schedules.
- Do you have a regional library in your community? During the holidays they offer many drop in programs, why not have one of them be AdventureSmart?
- Local Scouts Canada and Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada units always enjoy having outside presenters come in to do Hug-a-Tree or Survive Outside with their members. Bring your SAR gear and make a full night of it, the children always have a multitude of questions.
- Talk to the local snowmobile club. Do a Survive Outside Snowmobiling presentation, especially for their young drivers. If you yourself are not a snowmobiler, partner with one of the club members to do the parts of the presentation that you are not comfortable with and you can focus on the three T's and how SAR works so they are better informed.

- Know someone at the local radio or TV station? Talk to them about some quick public service type reminders for them to broadcast throughout the day. They can be short one or two line statements. I can help you put these together if you need some assistance.
- Be sure to include AdventureSmart in any displays that you do at community events. I have supplies that I can arrange to get to you as well as posters that I can send your way.

Just a quick summary of what I have been doing to help you promote AdventureSmart. A very good friend of mine donated his time and assisted me in developing three posters that can be used either individually or together as a display. I am hoping to have copies for every chapter at our AGM. We have been booked at two tradeshow for April – Parkland Outdoors Show in Yorkton and Regina Outdoor Show. A booth is confirmed and am working with the organizers to arrange for Hug a Tree presentations to be made as part of their programs. I will be requiring the assistance of local SAR groups to help man the booth and with the presentations. I will also be reviewing the registered presenters in SARSAV. Anyone that has not logged a presentation in the last two years will be receiving notification that I will be removing them from my list.

I just want to remind everyone again about the stipend that is available to chapters. If you have registered five different AdventureSmart presentations on five different occasions, you are eligible for a \$250.00 stipend. You may apply for this twice, for a total of \$500.00 per chapter. The funds go to the chapters to distribute as they wish; fundraising, transportation costs for the presenters; etc. However, the presentations **MUST** be registered on

the AdventureSmart website as this is the only official record that it has taken place. I have been keeping track of the presentations and once I see that you have qualified, will make the submission for the stipend. The time frame is the fiscal year – April 1 to March 31. So you still have time to get those presentations in, one chapter has already qualified and received the maximum amount.

I have attached the stats for the year to date so you can see the activity in our province. If you have done a presentation and it is not on there, register it. If you have not register yourself as a presenter, just go to www.adventuresmart.ca and login as a new registrant. It takes only minutes and within a day or two you will be activated. The new Hug a Tree video is not on the website yet, I am still waiting on confirmation when it will be completed.

Be AdventureSmart. Remember and promote the three T's: Trip Planning, Training and Taking the Essentials. Get Informed & Go Outdoors! ~ Linda

A CORPORATE CHALLENGE...

A challenge has been put out to corporate donations to kick-start SARSAV fundraising efforts. Thanks to Capp's Tree and Landscaping for the first donation! Hopefully there will be more businesses who will help support SARSAV in the coming year.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY...

SARR is planning a Team Leader course to be held at the Regina Police Service on Feb 6/7 and 27/28. 10 spots will be available for members from other chapters on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact Derek Schmidt at d.schmidt.sar@sasktel.net

Log presentations!

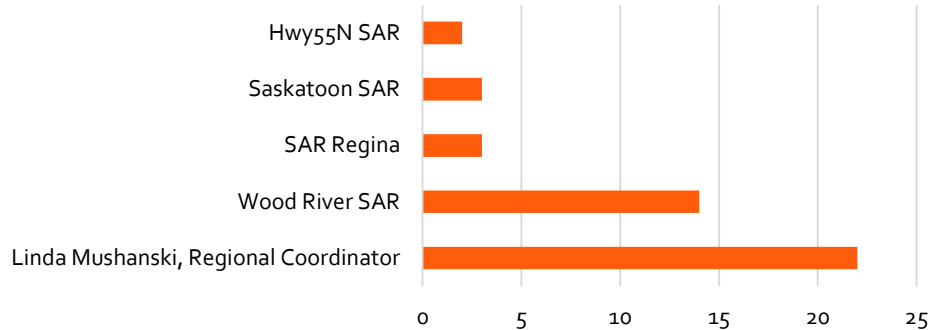
A reminder from Linda Mushanski, Regional Coordinator, to all AdventureSmart presenters – report your presentations!

Stats = funding!

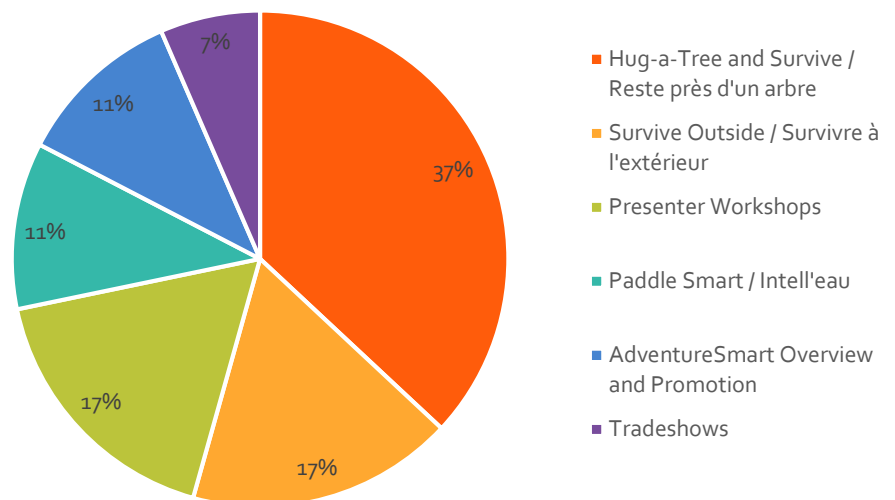
(Photo: Derek, son of Tracey Lagasse of Wood River, was a live-action participant in a Hug-a-Tree and Survive presentation this summer at Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park.)



Reported AdventureSmart Presentations, 2015



AdventureSmart Presentations by Type, 2015



MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL
SEARCH EXERCISE
CODERRE, SK MAY 13-15, 2016

You must have a valid SARSAV ID to participate in this search exercise.

Friday evening, May 13

A barbecue supper will greet you upon your arrival at the former Coderre School (located at 50.135°N 106.384°W). UTM coordinates zone 13U 40130 555435. (Set GPS to NAD27)

Registration will begin at 1700h. An informal meet-and-greet will follow.

Saturday, May 14

0800h Breakfast and registration, followed by a 0900h briefing at the Coderre School Gym.

Details of the exercise have not yet been finalized at this time, but a joint exercise with CASARA has been planned. Updates and agenda to follow.

Please ensure that you have your compasses.

There will be an optional night exercise outside of the school – bring your headlamps and flashlights if you wish to participate.

Sunday morning, May 15

0830 h Pancake breakfast, followed by a Debrief at the school gym beginning at 1000h.

Lunch will be available before your departure.



Accommodations

The school yard will be available for tents or campers, with kitchen and washroom facilities (including showers) located inside the school. In case of inclement weather, the school itself may be used for indoor camping.

Just down the street from the school is Carol's Guest House, a B&B for anyone who may not be able to stand sleeping on the floor.
306-394-2016

Shamrock Regional Park, with camping, is only about 10 minutes away, nestled in the bend of the Wood River.

Gravelbourg is about a 30 minute drive to the south on highway 58. Several hotels and B&Bs can be accessed there.

Getting There

From the east: Drive to Moose Jaw, take 9th Ave. SW to the south end of the city. Turn right on Highway #363, and follow it to the Coderre turnoff, approximately 75 km.

From the north: Drive to Chaplin (on Highway #1), then turn south on Highway #58 (a gravel highway; this road may be quite slick after a rain.) Travel 36 km south, to the town of Shamrock – then turn east on Highway #363. Proceed approx. 18 km east to the turnoff.

From the south: From Gravelbourg, take Highway #58 north 32 km to Highway #363. Turn right and travel 13 km east to the turnoff.

Once you turn south at the turnoff...3 km after, turn west just past the CPR right-of-way. The school will be 2 km ahead on the right.

Keep Them Fresh, 'Cause They're Perishable

by Rick Elder, Training Chair

As we look forward to 2016 and thoughts are directed to Chapter development, certainly training is of utmost importance. In my mind, the ability to execute our response instinctively, and flawlessly, each time serves to promote our organizations in a positive manner.

As in many emergency response disciplines, the core competency skills of a GSAR responder can be a perishable item; unless they can be rehearsed to the point that they are committed to muscle memory. As we individually hone our skills

to near-perfection, collectively, as a team, it strengthens our response.

Have you given consideration to skill station drills, or team building exercises that may serve as a means to accomplish continual maintenance, or improvement, of our perishable skill sets?

Do we define training objectives, or benchmarks, during training scenarios that serve to illustrate our strengths, or, opportunities for growth?

The strong level of commitment is very evident amongst the SARSAV membership, and is to be commended. The Emergency Services profession is very dynamic and in a constant state of evolution.

Through continual education and core competency development, SARSAV and its individual Chapters will continue to flourish.

Best wishes to you and your teams in 2016. Remember to submit your training records regularly! ~ Rick

SARVAC Updates

by Scott Wright, SARVAC President

The SARVAC Board met in Saskatoon November 29th to Review the Strategic Direction and build out the Action Plan for 2016.

- The Technical Sub Committee for the Standards has advised the Curriculum should be ready for public review this week. eLearning portion is on hold as its value at this stage is questionable and under debate.
- A Data Management Committee has been organized and is comprised of Don Drebert as Chair, Dan Beaulieu, Chris Steeves, and Dwight. There will be additional requests forthcoming for information and statistics to provide substantiation to PS for SARVACs contribution to Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Management. Please treat these requests as a priority.
- Full GSAR Workshops were completed in Saskatoon and Quebec. Nathalie is currently working on the BC workshop to be held Feb pending availability of venue.
- Insurance – discussions are underway between the office of the executive committee and Algoma reference insurance in general and more specifically for AdventureSmart representatives who have no insurance provided through their respective Associations. A blanket policy for AdventureSmart Presenters is being pursued. Algoma will be providing a new Power Point to SARVAC for distribution to all Associations.
- Representatives, of D4H, provided a brief during SARScene of their technologies. More discussion required, Jury is still out as we

intend to look at others. The original intent is still the same, one system for all users.

- Website, BOD area will be divided into 12 folders to aid in document organization and SARVAC will self-title the folders. Home Page, BOD and contact email address will be added to the home page to provide easier access.
- The SARVAC Contribution Program (Sustainability) Second Quarterly Report was filed with NSS.
- The Search and Rescue Volunteers Tax Credit (SRVTC), was further clarified at the BOD meeting in Charlottetown on 24 Oct. Any issues please continue to call Cindy or Dwight.
- BOD directors training will follow in the New Year once packages have been finalized.
- A BOD Meeting will be held the 26 – 28 February 2016 in conjunction with a GSARCC meeting and a meeting of the Standards Technical Review Committee to review public comments.

PREVENTION

AdventureSmart, in the month of November, 49 AdventureSmart Presentations were delivered to 1595 individuals with Volunteers providing 279 In-kind hours. NL conducted a 1 day workshop with another scheduled for December.

A Train the Trainer session is currently being planned for Ontario for February. Outreach materials are currently being restocked, and the English version of Hug-A-Tree is complete, with the French version in the editing stage. Video will



be released simultaneously on completion.

Scott – Thank you so much for the hard work that you do federally to advance SAR for everyone. We are so fortunate as volunteers nationwide to have such a strong advocate in our corner! ~ Ed.

Addendum from Scott:

I met with Supt. Grant St. Germaine of the RCMP to discuss SARSAV Utilization by the RCMP December 23rd in Saskatoon. Grant is supportive of SARSAV efforts, has been both SAR and Crops Officer in the North as well as Alberta. He is currently A/IOC Crops and Supt in Northern SK and has been charged by F Division to work on solutions with us.

I provided him both with our statistics, examples of where our activation would have better addressed the urgency and extent of the response. I also reflected on the positive impact that Sgt Garvey had brought to the SAR/ RCMP interface. The key issues for Liabilities, Insurance, and Expenses were discussed and we have mutually committed to follow up with the Province in January. He reiterated that F Division is complimentary regarding our training and organization, and our professional approach to relationships with the Province and RCMP. We agreed to reconnect early in January.

Grant is deeply familiar with ERI, and Richard Smith who has heavily endorsed SARSAV as a professional and capable organization, and he endorsed our approach to a Provincial Advisory Council Meeting...I will continue to work with Grant, Rick Galloway and Duane McKay.

SARSAV By The Numbers, 2015

by Bobbi Buchanan, SARSAV Vice-President

SARSAV provides trained professional volunteers for Ground Search & Rescue. **Our 17 teams provide Rescue, Recovery and Evidence Searches** when activated by Agencies of Jurisdiction: RCMP, EMO, Parks Canada, and Municipal Police Services.

There are currently **325 members of SARSAV chapters in Saskatchewan**. This speaks loudly to the strength of our volunteer base.


In 2015, SARSAV's members were involved in **24 separate incidents of lost or missing persons**. 16 of these involved one or more chapters activating for searches. Time members spent on searching alone totaled over **700 person-hours of time**.

Map Legend:

- ★ volunteer SARSAV chapters.
- ★ SARSAV chapters associated with mandated organizations (NATO Flight Training in Canada, Parks Canada).

 Approx. locations of activations.

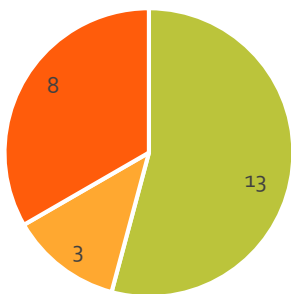
 Approx. locations of standbys.

 Communities where SAR members were tasked during the 2015 Northern Fire Response.

Map based on data provided by chapters to SARSAV as of December 30, 2015

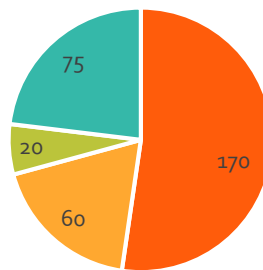


Types of Incidents



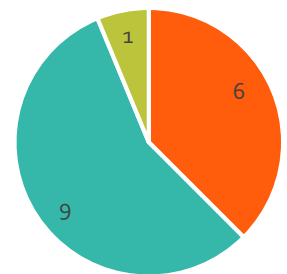
- Chapter(s) activated for search
- Chapter(s) activated; other(s) on standby
- Chapter(s) on standby only; no activation

SARSAV Professional Volunteers by Category



- Basic Searchers
- Team Leaders
- Search Managers
- Non Searchers*

Activations by Agency of Jurisdiction



- RCMP
- City / Municipal Police Force
- Parks

Additionally, 7 chapters deployed a total of 19 individual members on the Northern Fire Response.

Specialized teams within SARSAV include Near Water Rescue, Hovercraft trained Searchers, Technical Rope Rescue, Trackers, and more.

*Non Searchers include members of SARSAV chapters who provide various support roles, and includes members currently in training to become field ready. This does NOT include inactive members.

LAURELS...

A special thank you goes out to Pat Casement of WADSAR who suggested the name of our newsletter. You have given us a new identity! ~ Ed.

Highlights of SARScene 2015

by Diane Van Brabant, SSAR

I had the privilege of attending SARSCENE in Charlottetown, PEI in October where I enjoyed first class hospitality from some of the friendliest people I've ever

met. From our greeting in the airport complete with a shuttle to a beautiful historic hotel to our departure at 0430 the smiles of our colleagues from across the nation here there without fail. I was not able to take part in the hospitality nights due to a stubborn migraine but I heard from reliable sources that they were incredibly fun and I missed out on the best part!

I enjoyed a fascinating session on technology where I learned about the various satellites which comprise our reporting system. The current satellites GEOSAR which is static and the LEOSAR which orbits the earth complement each other. Seventy percent of alerts are false and ninety-seven percent of false alerts are resolved by telephone calls. By the end of 2016 the new satellites MEOSAR will be operational and these will outperform the current system in place. There will be a high level of satellite redundancy available and they are compatible with all existing beacons. With the improved coverage the response time to a missing person alert will be greatly improved.

I attended a session where partners throughout Canada explained their services and procedures and discussions ensued where we explored how to work together and reduce the duplication of services. The new program of the Civil Service Reserve Team for Emergency Measures and Fire Safety (EMFS) out of the Ministry of Government Relations in the province of Saskatchewan was explained and garnered much interest

SARSCENE SASK STATS...

SARSAV was represented at SARScene 2015 by seven members, representing NFTC GSAR, North Corman Park SAR, Parkland SAR, Porcupine Plain SAR, Saskatoon SAR, and Wood River SAR. Other SK representatives included staff from EMFS and a researcher from the University of Regina.

several GSAR members travelled north to assist with evacuations and any other duties. The goal is for this program to be expanded nationally.

I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity and I look forward to joining my new friends in Edmonton for SARSCENE 2016!

Diane – thank you for sharing your knowledge on the new technologies and partnerships that are furthering our cause. Undoubtedly, 2016 will be another wonderful opportunity! – Ed.



Homemade EatMore Bars

- 2 cups chocolate chips (semi sweet)
- 1 cup creamed honey
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 2 cups chopped salted peanuts

Melt choc chips and honey in medium size sauce pan on medium-low heat. Once melted, turn up heat to med-high; stir constantly until mixture starts to boil. Remove from heat and stir in peanut butter until blended, then stir in peanuts.

Spread mixture evenly over a foil lined small cookie sheet or jelly roll pan (do not grease pan or foil). Refrigerate approx. 20 minutes and then slice.

Bars can be frozen and should be stored in air tight container in fridge.

~ from <http://www.ridezsurvive.ca/>

from the attendees. This program makes use of highly trained government workers who are seconded from their positions to assist during disasters. During the fires in Saskatchewan the EMFS put a call out to SARSAV and

TRAINING TIDBITS

Two years ago, SSAR revised and expanded upon the Basic Searcher training. While it still follows the ERI curriculum, they have added components that their Chapter specifically wants new searchers to know before becoming field capable.

Over the course of four-months (four evening classroom sessions and five field days including one overnight weekend) members in training learn about SSAR's search activation procedures, trailer setup/takedown, have more opportunities to learn and practice navigation skills, get an introduction into note taking and evidence search expectations, and take part in several short exercises that provide experience in all search types. This gives members in training an opportunity to better understand and practice the skills required of them. Once completed, the SSAR team feels confident they are fully search capable members. This has also resulted in more dedicated team members who are eager to get involved in other aspects of being part of a SAR team.

By the end of January, six new members will have completed or almost completed their Basic Searcher qualifications. Unfortunately, some were not able to attend the final skills assessment day in December and some still have other requirements to complete before becoming fully qualified members.

- Shelley Ballard-McKinlay, SSAR

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.

Reflections on SARScene 2015

by Tracy Van Brabant, SSAR

In October, both Diane and I had the pleasure of attending SARScene 2015 in Charlottetown, PEI. It is an annual event that brings together groups from coast to coast, to educate, train, and share ideas. It was an eye opening experience to see how many different organizations there are involved in Search and Rescue. While I'm used to working as a GSAR volunteer, it was fascinating to see other groups like CASARA (Civil Air Search and Rescue Association), K9-SAR, Canadian Forces, Canada Coast Guard, RCMP, Parks Canada, police officers, firefighters, and many more. There was a real emphasis on co-operation between the various agencies and, by working together, we can make a bigger impact and save lives.

This year I was fortunate to be selected as one of two representatives from our province to take a pre-conference "Train the Trainer" program by AdventureSmart. Thanks to this training, I am now certified to go around the province and train local presenters on the various programs available. AdventureSmart is a federal program that promotes education and prevention. It demonstrates how individuals can pre-plan and prevent many mishaps while enjoying the great outdoors. The programs include Hug-a-Tree, Survive Outside, Survive Outside Snowmobile, Snow Safety Education Program and PaddleSmart.

Another pre-conference opportunity was a field day and SAR demonstrations. Booths from various groups were set up in a local park. There were fire-starting demonstrations by AdventureSmart and various companies showing off the latest and greatest SAR technology. From ARGOs to UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), equipment was buzzing around. The K9 teams also were present to show off the dog skills. There was even an aerial rescue demonstration in

One of the many vendor booths. Gear heaven!

the harbour where a Cormorant helicopter plucked people from an overturned boat.

There were so many educational opportunities at the conference and it was hard to pick between them. I managed to take in "Effective Adult Messaging: Making the Results Matter," "Tick and Lyme Disease: Prevention and Detection," "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Resources for Volunteers," and "SAR Response to Vulnerable Persons." By the way, the tick presentation is not for the squeamish.

In addition to all of the education provided, there were many social opportunities. PEI GSAR hosted a "Kitchen Party" for delegates at the local fire hall. They fed us local delights such as oysters, mussels, crab, fresh PEI corn and the famous Cavendish Farm fries, while local musicians kept things lively with fiddle playing and vocals. The adventure of the evening was joining the "Shucked and Shined" club. For a donation to PEI GSAR you were given a raw oyster and a shot of moonshine (the legal stuff). That was quite an experience for a prairie girl and I have an official PEI Aquaculture Alliance certificate to prove it! It was so much fun to hang out with other people that have a true heart for Search and Rescue. I met many new friends from Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and PEI.

The overall message that I came away with from the conference was the need for more prevention work. By increasing the use of AdventureSmart presentations, we can not only prevent occurrences but also increase the likelihood of good outcomes for missing



individuals. By going into special care homes and doing some pre-planning, we can speed up the response time for searches. There was a significant emphasis on pre-planning over the whole weekend.

It was so mind blowing to see all of the different organizations that came together for the conference. Hearing from members of both the police and RCMP talk about working together with the volunteer groups. I was also thrilled to see active police members that were also search and rescue volunteers. They were able to do cross training with both organizations. One specific example provided was training both police officers and SAR volunteers on how to look for missing dementia patients and what to do when you find one. This is invaluable training considering Canada's aging population.

Having thoroughly enjoyed SARScene 2015, both Diane and I are looking forward to SARScene 2016 in Edmonton next year. It is an experience not to be missed!

Tracy – Thanks for sharing your experiences. It sounds like it was well worth the long trip! – Ed.

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

Send information and/or pictures to:

TRACEY LAGASSE, SARSAV SECRETARY
tlagasse@sasktel.net

SARSAV 2015 Executive**President** – Justin Capp, NFTC GSAR**Vice President** – Bobbi Buchanan,
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Wood River SAR**Treasurer** – Robert Smith, Prince Albert
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Clue Awareness Activity

How Many Human and Animal Faces Can You Find?

On the lighter side...



At the SARVAC conference in November, chapter representatives' pictures were taken. Unfortunately, the opportunity to capture a picture of the SARSAV Board of Directors was missed. So we thought we'd share an older picture of us. Cheers! – Ed.

