



"Proudly Serving PA, NJ, DE, and MD since 1979"

RESCUE ME

"That others may learn"

Spring 2002

Volume 2002-3



Pet Expo 2002

GPSAR attended the annual Ft. Washington Pet Expo. Congratulations to the organizers as this had to be one of the best years ever!

Our display allowed us to get some good exposure, and answer many questions for the public.

We're proud to report that all units were represented during the 3 days of the show.

While the humans did their best the canines and equines, as always, stole the show.



Night Moves

In Search and Rescue you have to train for all conditions because you can work in anything at any time.

We purposely hold bad weather trainings just to make sure that we're as ready as possible to spend extended time outdoors in such conditions.

Recently we've had two night trainings. Both were excellent sessions that left us all a little surprised on how well we were prepared for nocturnal operations.

Now some might say that it's just the same as daytime operations but you bring your own light. We'll that is just a very small part of it. Accountability is a bigger job, safety is a tremendous job, and clue awareness is made much more difficult.

We have a few more coming up in the near future that will be running with full command posts as part of the scenario.

Anyone is SAR that wants to share night training lessons learned please feel free to do so. Send mail to stories@gpsar.org.

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Bikes

After running a bike unit for 5 years one of the things that we've found is that, like bears, the bike unit hibernates during the winter. That is not to say that they



do not come out at all. They do. They are first and foremost ground pounders like everyone else on the team but deep winter sightings are slim.

With this in mind when the bikes come out we blow the dust off the equipment as well as our skills. It usually takes about 1 training to get everyone back up to speed.

It comes back to you...like riding a bike.

We recently spent some time on South St. after a detail down there and got in some good crowd practice and tight space maneuvering.

We hope to be offering some classes for our colleagues in the near future. If you have an interest please feel free to contact bikes@gpsar.org

Park Cleanup

In an effort to give a little extra back GPSAR tries to maintain a presence in the communities it serves. That's a little difficult due to the size of the area that we've covered but one thing we can do is help with the parks.

On Saturday, April 6th, 2002 GPSAR members assisted in the cleanup of Ft. Washington State Park for 3 hours in the morning prior to our regular training.

The cleaning was a good chance to help out and maintain the valuable resource that we utilize to keep our skills up.

You would be surprised how much trash there is in the most remote areas of a park this size. Find out when your local park is having a cleaning day and take your family out to participate. It's a good way to give something back and get something in the process.

Animal Update

Animal wise we've got a couple things going on. We've got the equines training with other team members to increase comfort level and operations safety. They've worked with the bike unit to fill a task in the field.

The canine unit is currently developing several canines to complete our existing compliment of certified search dogs. We've got several air scent, some tracking and a couple cadaver dogs in training.

Inquiries can be made to canine@gpsar.org or equine@gpsar.org



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

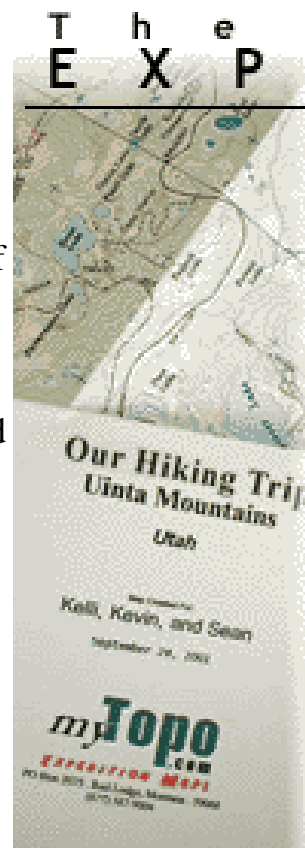
MYTOPO.COM—Your topo, your way.

We've all been in that classic situation where we're called to that intersecting point of four quads in the middle of a stormy night. While you can't do anything about the weather or the time now you can do something about the maps. With MYTOPO.COM you can pick your location and make the exact map that you want combined any parts of any intersecting sheets to make your own custom made standard sized topo.

Anyone that uses them is probably checking out the URL as they read this. This product is a must have for some situations. Below are some details on this fine product:

- *You can get UTM, latitude-longitude, or both.*
- *You can get portrait or landscape maps.*
- *You can choose almost any common scale.*
- *All maps are waterproof and tear resistant.*
- *You can get the maps folded or rolled.*
- *The maps run \$14.95 and come almost instantly.*

Check them out at www.mytopo.com



Zodi Hot Tap Series Hot Water Heater

There are few creature comforts that are just sorely missed in the field and hot water to wash with is one. Whether you're on a Search or running a decon a little hot water can't hurt. This thing is fantastic in design and operation.

It's completely self-contained and will give an endless supply of 100° hot showers in under 10 seconds anytime, anywhere under the power of it's twin 10,000 BTU stainless steel burners.

This is a must have for field units. Check out www.zodi.com for more information. Look here for more information after some long term field testing.

Greater Philadelphia Search And Rescue
PO Box 1163
Glenside, PA 19038
(877) 598-5618 - www.gpsar.org

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Black Rock Dam Search



On 7 May 2002 GPSAR participated in the effort to locate the body of Ms. Roseanne Cory. Ms. Cory had went in the waters near the Black Rock dam in an effort to retrieve her dog from the water. The force of the waters proved too strong and Ms. Cory was lost.

Subsequently many county organizations were called into assist in the recovery of Ms. Cory. GPSAR was assigned the task of clearing the shorelines and checking for Ms. Cory in those areas.

The search covered an area of medium to rough

terrain with water as a dividing line, the area right below Black Rock Dam as one end, and Rt 29 as the other end.

The search headed S from the dam to 29 where it went W until the railroad tracks at which point it headed N back up below the dam.

We viewed shorelines by directly eyeballing when possible and using binoculars from the other side to afford a clear view in some areas.

For the most part this was a textbook low head damn scenario as unfortunately supported by the ultimate finding and location of the victims body.

Our sympathies go out to the family for their loss.

Daytime searches are tough and GPSAR would like to send out special thanks to our partners from **Gloucester County Search and Rescue** for sending people and preparing to assist with a second shift.

There were more than enough people for the tasks assigned but the more the merrier. Thanks again, **GCSAR.**