

## Main Story Nockamixon Search

With the year coming to a close GPSAR found itself contacted for a New Years Eve search at Lake Nockamixon. This search turned into a multiple day event that we ended up logging well over 300 man-hours on.

The event was handled well by the numerous agencies involved.

GPSAR was asked to cover the ground search part of the mission. During the over 30 tasks that GPSAR performed during it's time there focus was along a shoreline from the

marina to above the second cove.

On the second day GPSAR had canines hit on a location within 20 ft. of each other at different



*Canine handler with 2 assistants working the shoreline near where the vehicle was located. (Notice lifejackets on everyone.)*

times on the water.

After days of hard work by all involved the missing persons were located by sonar from a company in Virginia in the area of high probability around the second cove where the dogs had indicated.

Closure was brought to the family though the efforts of everyone involved and the management of the DCNR staff.

This response was a test of the resolve of all involved. While weather and conditions started nice they turned to-



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## Help And Support Can you help us?

GPSAR is doing more and more and we do most of it out of the pocket of our members.

Times are tight everywhere but there are some things that other organizations might be able to help us out that they might not even realize.

A little means a lot to us.

If you can help with ANY of the following or have ANY ideas please let us know. It would be appreciated.

- #1— Vehicles—Old vans, pickups, ambulances, etc.
- #2—Space for an occasional meeting.
- #3—Space for storage of seasonal gear.
- #4—Gear—Backboards, old

medical gear, old bunker gear, etc.

Believe me when I say that we can find a use for almost anything. So if it's sitting around taking up space and not being used drop us an email at [gpsar@gpsar.org](mailto:gpsar@gpsar.org).

Thanks in advance!

# Trainings—Inside Training Never Stops— DCNR FTM / First Aid / CPR

## SEARCHES

Amongst the contacts since the last newsletter there were 2 for active searches in our area. Happily both searches: one for a 15 year old autistic boy and another for a 83 year old man had positive outcomes.

Two good outcomes in a row was a big plus. One of the main factors that influence a positive outcome is contact us early in the incident. With any operation laying a the foundation in the beginning is paramount to a good outcome. Doing other-



wise can cause time to be wasted by people

having to reorganize into the operation.

Please contact us early into the operation if only for some guidance and advice. The level of assistance you get from GPSAR can be determined by your departments needs. We can do anything from a phone consult to a full team response to assist you.

## INSIDE TRAINING

Despite the logistic nightmare GPSAR has been doing more outside training as a group. Let me clarify. Instead of people getting FA / CPR, etc on their own we set a day and have most of us take it. This might sound strange to some emergency services but with people living in multiple counties and several states it's a little more complicated for us.



We knocked out FA & CPR and then DCNR's voluntary FTM qualification. This was taken by over half of the active team with the other half to test in the next few months.

## OUTSIDE TRAINING

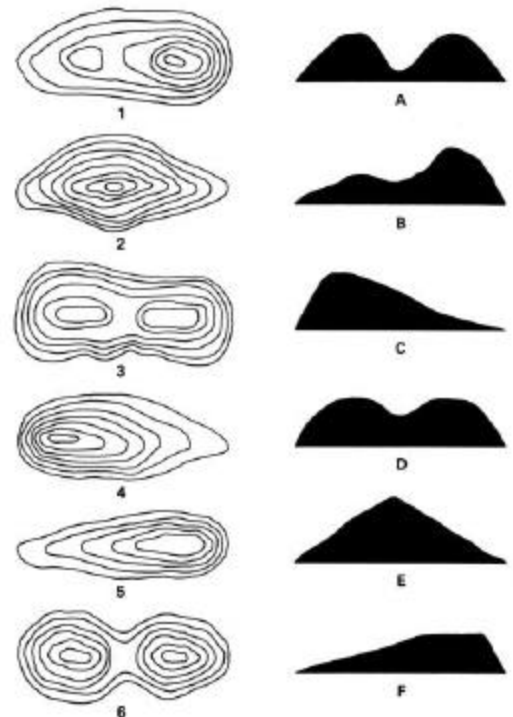
Someone recently told us that it appears that our team members are more geared towards hands on applications of SAR skills than book skills. Well I guess that's true because even in

## Paper Skills Light The Way

### CONTOUR LINES

They are brown on the map and tell us elevation. They can be very helpful in determining where we are on the map.

Can you match up the terrain top view on the left with the matching terrain from the side on the right.



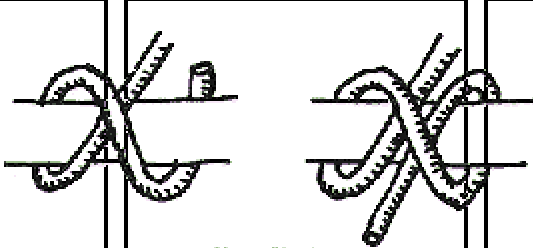
# TECHNICAL TOPICS

## Packaging

Field packaging differs in many ways from ambulance packaging.

There are several styles out there that re all effective for what they do.

We tend to use 25ft. Piece of 1" tubular 4000lb rated webbing with a standard clove hitch then criss cross from shoulder to foot



Clove Hitch

and back up to the shoulder ending with a clove hitch on the other side.

Now something special we add is a 10ft. Section of webbing under the arms and tied off using clove hitches to the bas-

ket. This protects the patient from downward movement if the basket is tilted upward.

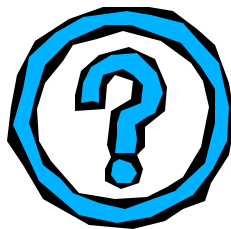
**How to be indispensable.**  
# 3—Have the tools that you need to do your job.  
#2—Have the mindset to do your job.  
**#1—Show up to do your job!**

### Q & A: What does SAR do?

Being lost is a terrifying thing. In this modern age with all of the technology that seems to be on us it's become even more dis turbing to have someone just "vanish". It's effect extends beyond the missing subject to the loved ones. GPSAR has worked since 1979 to help minimize that effect by assisting in returning the person home safely or in some unfortunate situations helping locate the person so that the family may finally have closure.

Search and Rescue work differs from most emergency services in that our jobs are fewer in number but longer in

duration. Given the right (or wrong) mix of things a search can go for any # of days. There aren't a whole lot of 4 day fire calls out there!



GPSAR works with local government to utilize the expertise at our disposal to find missing subjects. Many times what we do is simply narrow down areas because the area is so large. We essentially elimiate places that people are

not. We pin down the area to a more manageable size.

We look for people that desire to be found and removed from harm. We use people, animal partners and technology to accomplish this goal. The goal is often hampered by slow callout or bad information or many other factors of day to day life. We try to work around these. We're successful much of the time. Some of the time things don't work out and all we can do is help the family have closure by assis-ting in getting their loved ones back. We do the best we can with what we have.

**How Your Emergency Services Organization Can Reach GPSAR**  
1-877-598-5618 for business related items  
gpsar@gpsar.org for email  
911 in Montgomery County for emergencies



## Greater Philadelphia Search and Rescue

PO Box 1163 ~ Glenside, PA 19038

Web—[www.gpsar.org](http://www.gpsar.org)

Email-[gpsar@gpsar.org](mailto:gpsar@gpsar.org)

Receipt Info  
Name  
Address  
City, State, Zip

### Member News Elections / Lt. Packett

#### ***How to be indispensable.***

*# 3—Have the tools  
that you need to do  
your job.*

*#2—Have the mind-  
set to do your job.*

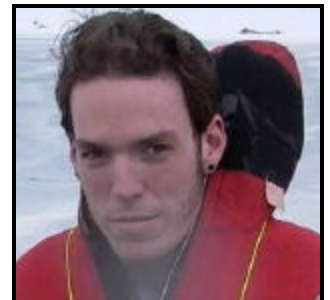
***#1—Show up to  
do your job!***

Elections went as follows:

President—Ferron  
Chairman—Wallace  
Secretary –Herbst  
Chief—Hopkins

Board members to be  
appointed.

Lt. Mike Packett has been with the team for several years. Starting out as a member and working his way through the ranks (the way you should) he's moved up to the rank of Lt.



Mike is a mechanic in his professional life and handles our logistics and engineering when we're in the field. His loves in the field are technical rescue and bikes.