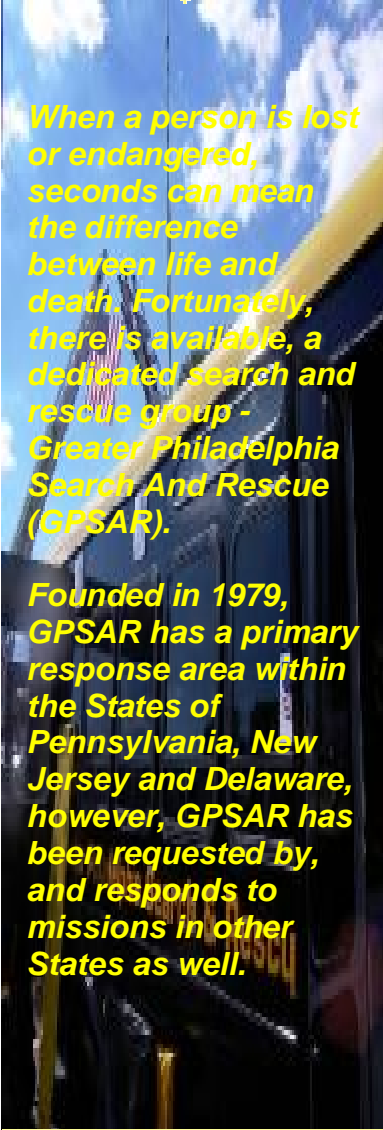




# The Official Newsletter of GPSAR **RESCUE ME**

**Greater Philadelphia Search & Rescue**  
Proudly Serving PA, NJ, DE & MD since 1977 - [www.gpsar.org](http://www.gpsar.org)



*When a person is lost or endangered, seconds can mean the difference between life and death. Fortunately, there is available, a dedicated search and rescue group - Greater Philadelphia Search And Rescue (GPSAR).*

*Founded in 1979, GPSAR has a primary response area within the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, however, GPSAR has been requested by, and responds to missions in other States as well.*

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## RECENT EVENTS



### CAP MOCK

Greater Philadelphia partnered with the Civil Air Patrol and representatives from other SAR organizations on January 12th at Nockamixon State Park for a mock search. .

GPSAR had 22 members that arrived bright and early and eager to work together as a formidable team in the field. Even after delays in formation of tasks, all present per-formed their tasks well and in a timely fashion with enthusiasm and energy. The subject was found and successfully packaged and transported by a team made up of GPSAR members.

The result of on going skills practice pays off when in a real situation the lost or missing subject is located.



### Mantracking

Members are learning track awareness and track identification. The basic step-by-step method of learning to follow the track is bringing several of our members into the realization that the track is there and can be seen by anyone if you know where and how to look for signs of human passage.. Developing this low tech skill can only add to the cache of skills of this dedicated team.

### PET EXPO 2008

GPSAR participated in the annual Pet Expo as it has for the past 10 years or so.

This is a great time to meet the people we serve as well as catching up with old friends.



# MISSING PERSONS



GPSAR was deployed to Ridley Twp, PA on February 3. This time however, it was for real. GPSAR was able to field 28 of it's active members in a search for a missing 24 year old man from Delaware.

The objective of this mission was to confirm the conclusions of the PD and follow-up on the cursory search performed by another SAR organization.

Previously it had been concluded that this subject was not in the immediate area and search efforts were suspended around the PLS.

GPSAR had its members gather at noon and tasks were in the field by 12:20. A find was made at 13:14 by one of the task teams and confirmed by 13:48 that it was the subject. He was found less than a quarter mile from LKP.

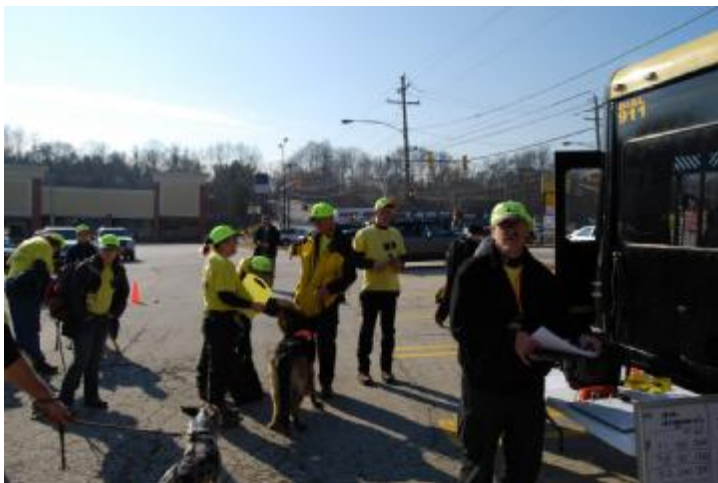
The subject was deceased and had been in the creek. It was unfortunate that the family had to live with the unknowns for two long, emotion filled weeks. This is the main reason we try to get the word out that the services of our dedicated volunteers are available to the community.

## VERTICAL EXTRICATION

GPSAR was called out by Blue Mountain Search and Rescue to, assist in a vertical recovery in Lehigh County. Due to some safety consideration Gpsar declined the request.



On February 27, 2008, Gpsar was present with a pledge by Ridley Township for our efforts in locating a missing 24 year old male in their township





### TRAINING TOPICS

*Training Never Stops*

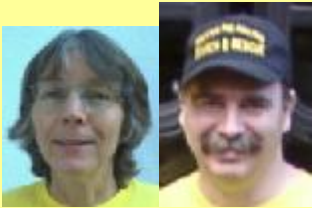
In the interest of expanding our newer personnel's skills and knowledge we recently partook in a GPS class sponsored by REI in Conshohocken.

Members attentively sat through a thorough presentation on maps and how to decipher the many symbols and systems used in cartography. REI associate, Bob Moser was patient and pleasant as he answered the classes many questions. After the maps section, an instruction on the functions and usage of a Global Positioning System (GPS) was given. Instruction on the various types and models was given. After some moments of self orientation to the units

in the building the class went out into the wilds of the parking lot to test their new knowledge. Additional discussion included geo-caching and car units.

This class was fun and informative for everyone present. Shopping for a GPS is on many members minds now with more clarity and understanding of what they want and actually need in a unit that will function for them when needed in the way they need it. As always, we train twice weekly in K-9 and field team skills at various locations and terrains to keep the dogs interest up and to challenge team members physical fitness and skill.

#### Member Profiles



Paul and Susan Morris

Paul and Susan came to the team several years ago and waited before actually joining.

They are both very hardworking and well educated members that helped out wherever they could. Paul helped with any and all things involving radios, including building our tracking units, and Susan helped fill in wherever she was needed.

Unfortunately they moved to the New England states when Paul took a dream job.

Despite the distance they continue to help out thus proving that if a person wants to they can find a way to help.

## TIP FOR THE MONTH

There are 3 things to do with gear and you should always be doing at least one...

- (1) Learning
- (2) Checking
- (3) Using

There is no fourth!

#### In Our Opinion:

*When is it time to step aside and let someone else step into your place?*

This is an answer we should know before our stubbornness and ego effects more than just ourselves. Just as we should be aware of everything around us when on duty, we should be aware of our inner self as well.

We need to ask ourselves the hard questions such as "Can I physically do this task? ,Can I mentally do this?, Can I emotionally handle this?". If the answer is no...step aside. Then, after that, improve yourself so that you can do it next time. Study, practice, get help where needed but don't just blow it off and make another excuse.

Next time will come quickly enough and maybe next time you won't be prepared and it could cost you your life or someone elses. Are you mentally and emotionally ready for that burden? Or, will you make an excuse for that too?

Product Reviews

Communications on a budget



Communications from start to finish is the backbone of a good search effort. Miscommunication leads to wasted time and possibly safety issues.

In search and rescue there are a few tools we can use to work technology in so that we have an easier job to do.

This is not to say that the old fashioned phone tree is dead...it never will be. This is to say that we need help to be more efficient with larger teams that are more dispersed than in the past.

We'll look at a couple of reasonably priced solutions that everyone can benefit from.

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**GROUP2CALL**

Group2call is an amazing product that does more than I could possibly list here (Part of the problem with listing is that it keeps getting better so whatever I write will be out of date by the time you see this).

- Message Center - 100% web interface, no software to download or install
- Send a voice, SMS or e-mail, check your message queue, view real-time information on your broadcasts all from your home page.
- Our tutorials will help you get started setting up your Message Center preferences and demonstrations on uploading your contacts and sending messages.
- Create an unlimited number of groups as well as assign individual callerids and other delivery preferences.
- Add an unlimited number of contacts including up to 3 phone numbers and email address. Set language,

weekday/weekend start times and other preferences.

- Create a simple text-to-speech message or record your own using our callback recording feature.
- Check your incoming SMS messages for replies to recent SMS broadcasts including the ability to reply to each message directly from Message Center.
- Customize Message Center including your delivery start/end times, confirmation email, transcription settings and contact information.

.Check them out at [www.group2call.com](http://www.group2call.com)



**I AM RESPONDING**

The Emergency Responder Reply System\* saves critical time for fire departments, EMS agencies, USAR and technical rescue teams, and any other incident response teams when responding to emergencies.

After receiving a dispatch notification through any existing system, responders speed dial one toll free number on their phone. Responders are immediately connected to an automated telephone system for a call that lasts only seconds. On one simple computer screen (accessed through any computer with internet access) their station, chiefs, team leaders and dispatchers immediately see who is responding, their level of certification/qualification, the time that they are responding, and where they are responding (station or scene). No one needs to answer any telephone or radio calls from any responders, and no software needs to be purchased or installed. It's that simple!

[www.iamresponding.com](http://www.iamresponding.com)