



Debrief

AUGUST 2009



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The Monthly Newsletter of
Far North Search & Rescue
<http://www.fnsar.org.nz>

Next Training - Low Angle Ropes Refresher - September

Where To Be Advised
When September 5th & 6th
What Will be released soon

Next Meeting 7:30pm September 2nd Kerikeri

All meetings other than AGM (October 7th) and Specials are now held at Proctor Library, Kerikeri.

Callouts: Nothing to report

Last Trainings Search Methods and Night Navigation - Opua

Many thanks for the good turn-out and the enthusiasm shown by all to get stuck in. Special thanks must go to Ron, Joy & Rog for arriving early to set up and my apologies for the over-ambitious night tasks.

And the winners are :

"BEST USE OF TERRAIN" Winner - Team 4 (George, Paul, Grant & Dawn)

The team showed the best situational awareness and route finding technique of all. They used their map recognition, navigation and intuitive & experience skills to plan the most appropriate route back to H.Q. This approach paid dividends as they struck an old blazed track leading up the ridge to the pond. Some of the team also had the presence of mind to freshen up in a creek ; Looking ones best on return to base is a priority.

"DEVOTION TO TASK" Winner - Team 3 (Sue, Trevor & Paul Cheeseman)

With a Go-Hard attitude, the team doggedly bulldozed their way to claim the honours of covering the greatest distance. Although committed to completing the tasks, they eventually surrendered to repeated suggestions from H.Q to turn back in order to be out before dawn. George was especially pleased to see them emerge from the bush shortly before midnight.

"MULTI - TASKING" Winner - Team 1 (Roger, Kylie & Frank)

The team found the going so easy on the night, that they decided to run their own mini-scenario : " What to do if our radio breaks down ?" They went to Comms. Plan B and a quick cellphone call to H.Q established that they would communicate via txt if they couldn't find their radio. (Correction - FIX their radio.) Thankfully, the radio was soon found (Sorry - Fixed.) This was fortunate as Ops. Man. was unable to txt with frozen thumbs. Team 1 also had time to try out the increasingly popular sport of Bush Tobogganing and enjoyed it immensely.

CONTACTS Pres: Glenn Fountain 407 7839; Sec: Marilyn Buckley 407 4299; Training: Sue Field 407 8636
Many thanks to our supporters: **Kerikeri Outdoor Shop & Stirling Sports, Waipapa**



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"OVERALL WINNER" - Team 2 (Alan, Marilyn & Andy)

Realizing it would be impossible to complete all of the Night Nav. taskings within the time frame, the team made the wise call to change course to incorporate and complete the final task. They did however still find time to practice their tracking skills to retrieve a missing GPS unit.

The clincher for the win was the team's performance during the Purposeful Wandering task in the afternoon's exercise. Having completed their task, they identified an area where POD might have been low. They decided to re-search this area and sure enough, found the vital clue.

The team demonstrated what a powerful tool this method can be when combined with skilled searchers, intuition and flexibility.

Congratulations Team 2, your award will be presented at the next meeting. Bet you can't wait.
Cheers all, Geran.

Last Trainings (cont) Mapping in SAR (Tumonz 3) - Kerikeri

A very good turnout for this one, and good to see some new members in there as well.

Steve and Dave from Sarinz had their work cut out from the start with a room of computer skills ranging from "I build 'em" right through to "I can open emails". Using a case study, people learnt to come to grips with the software and were soon dropping polygons all over the countryside. Shortly moving onto creating the all-important ordered hierarchy in the Tumonz file structure and overlaying aerials for 3d fly through visualisations (after having a nose at just how much land their neighbours actually owned).

Day two introduced file transfers between Tumonz and GPS units (GPSii?, GPSes?) as well as exporting to other locations and formats. Then the assessment arrived... Another search scenario and the happy chatter slowly faded. There was much rubbing of chins and foreheads, frowns and long meaningful stares at screens as what was a simple operation three hours ago seemed to mutate into a digital version of Rubiks cube... As the hours passed, final printouts started to appear and our mentors were able to catch their plane home. Certainly a very full two days, and I for one came away with a lot less trepidation about firing up the application. Thanks to Steve and Dave for their patience, explanations and presentation.

Parting Shot

Website is up and running now although still growing, and can be found at <http://www.fnsar.org.nz>
It'll be a couple of weeks before the search engines find us, but a Google for FNSAR should show you the way. Please drop in, have a look around and make any suggestions you think would improve the site.

**That's it for now,
Until Next Month,
Stay Safe...**

Cheers!

Pete

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