



Debrief

FEBRUARY 2008



PO Box 720, Kerikeri
fnsar@ihug.co.nz



The Monthly Newsletter of
Far North Search & Rescue

Next Training

SAREX

Where: Bland Bay

When: Evening of Friday 28th March to Afternoon of Sunday 30th

What: Full kit as for callout, you may also be bivvying up overnight.

Who: Everyone, especially newer members who have yet to experience an operation

Why: Valuable opportunity to try out your new (or rusty) skills in a controlled environment

Please advise Sue if you will or will not be attending for logistics.

Also would be good if you can take a camera, as I will be in IMT and we need lots of dramatic shots for the newsletter ☺

Next Meeting 7:30pm Mar 5th Kerikeri – Proctor Library meeting room

March Training SAREX as above. More details closer to the time.

Standbys and Callouts

None.

Last Training – Navigation - Waitangi Forest 10th Feb

Good to see so many turn up for this one as navigation is the Meat and Potatoes of SAR.

The morning started off with a resection exercise, made all the more realistic by the cloud base playing hide and seek with various features. Despite Pete forgetting the compasses(!), sufficient fixes were obtained to locate our position. Following a short debrief, we were back in the cars and pushing further into the depths of the pines.

Stage two involved practicing with the new GPS units and pacing/compass work. Needle in a haystack adequately describes the task of locating various tagged pine trees scattered through the block.

But this exercise was just a taste of things to come in the afternoon...

After lunch, a competition was announced. Points were awarded based on method used (New GPS, Old GPS + compass, and compass only) as well as distance – near, far, or insane.

I never realised before how much pine trees look alike when you're up to your ears in Cutty Grass and cobwebs. Josephs team took line honours, helped by Trev's calibrated legs and three quick finds on maximum points (compass only @ ±200m), then warmed down with a nice easy GPS find (Consisting of the team trying to keep up with the Geocacher amongst them!)

Thanks Al for a fun day out.

UPDATE: Revised 2008 Training schedule released – Available on the webpage at <http://farnorth.sar.org.nz>

Cheers
Pete

CONTACTS: Pres: Roger Ladd 407 9559; Sec: Sue Field 407 7622; Newsletter: Pete McGhee 401 6660
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