



British Columbia Tracking Association

Spring 2011 Newsletter

NSS SAR NIF CONTRIBUTION!!!

The BC Tracking Association is very grateful to the National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS) for the SAR New Initiatives Fund (NIF) Contribution Agreement we have received for 2011. The Agreement is **“To establish, maintain and oversee proven and consistent human tracking training standards in the province of BC with the primary goal to have every certified ground SAR volunteer in BC trained to a minimum of Track Aware.”**

This agreement will enable the Association to provide certified tracking instructor training and In-House GSAR tracker training in British Columbia at considerably reduced costs to Association members.

What this means to BCTA Members is that they will be subsidized and/or may claim reimbursement for some training costs based on the agreement criteria, as outlined below. Association members wishing to attend a BCTA sponsored tracking course will have to pre-pay all the associated tuition and fees up-front when they register for the course. However, following the successful completion of the course, they can submit a reimbursement claim to the

BCTA, which may include the following:

Track Aware Novices could be offered up to 24 BCTA sponsored In-House Track Aware classes. BCTA Members will pay a tuition fee of \$50 per In-House course, which is not claimable. The normal course fee would be \$175, so this is a considerable saving! Non-members will be charged \$100 for a BCTA sponsored In-House course. If they complete a membership form upon registration, the tuition fee can be reduced to \$65. Association members will be entitled to claim reimbursement for transportation if they live more than 40 km one-way from the training location, up to a maximum of 500 km round trip at the rate of 52 cents/km. Car-pooling is encouraged. Only the driver may claim the mileage. Accommodation and meals are at the student's expense and are not reimbursed.

Tracker 1, 2 and Sign Cutters will be offered up to six BCTA sponsored advanced Universal Tracking Services (UTS) courses. BCTA Members will be able to claim reimbursement for the UTS tuition of \$175 (Cdn), plus transportation if they live more than 40 km one-way from the training location, up to a

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maximum of 500 km round trip at the rate of 52 cents/km. Car-pooling is encouraged. Only the driver may claim the mileage. Accommodation and meals are at the student's expense and are not reimbursed.

Train the Trainers will be offered two BCTA sponsored UTS TTT courses in 2011, for up to 15 students each. BCTA Members will be able to claim reimbursement for the UTS tuition of \$175 (Cdn), plus transportation if they live more than 40 km one-way from the training location, up to a maximum of 500 km round trip at the rate of 52 cents/km. Car-pooling is encouraged. Only the driver may claim the mileage. Shared commercial accommodation can be reimbursed up to \$125 per night plus taxes for two people, or campsite fees, etc. with receipts. Meal packages during the course can also be reimbursed. In return, the BCTA will expect certified trainers to sign a letter of support, hours-in-kind, to volunteer to instruct at In-House courses.. These letters will be very useful for future grant applications.

BCTA/UTS Certified Instructors assigned by the Training Committee as instructors on BCTA sponsored In-House courses will be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses, including travel, meals and accommodation, within prescribed limits. Instructors will volunteer their time for travel and instruction, and will not be compensated for their hours. This is how the Association can offer the lowest possible tuition rates to In-House students.

Course Coordinators for groups hosting BCTA sponsored In-House courses, may be reimbursed for training manuals, hall rentals and other costs

associated with organizing and running a course. Details will be provided by the BCTA Regional Director when a sponsored course is requested.

Claims Forms for reimbursement will be available on the BCTA website at: www.bctracking.org - sign in to Members Only and open Files.

How to Host a Course is now available on the website. Groups wishing to host a tracking course should contact their BCTA Regional Directors.

Help Wanted BCTA Regional Director

The BC Tracking Association Society is looking for a volunteer to fill the position of NE Regional Director. The duties include: liaising with GSAR training officers and trackers within the region, providing tracking training materials and advice, facilitating tracking training, assisting other Regional Directors and providing reports, as required. For further information or to volunteer, contact Win Koch at: president@bctracking.org

Help Wanted - Treasurer

The BC Tracking Association Society is looking for a volunteer to fill the position of Treasurer within the Association Executive. The duties include keeping the financial records necessary to comply with the Societies Act and NSS SAR NIF Agreement, to render financial statements when required. For further information or to volunteer, contact Win Koch at: presidentr@bctracking.org

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March 2011 Board Meeting Highlights

Executive 2011:

President: Win Koch

Vice President:

Tania Walter Gardiner

A/Secretary: Peggy Shelley

A/Treasurer: Win Koch

Regional Directors:

SE: Jerome Liboiron

SW: Gerald Wolfe

Central: Dwaine Brooke

NE: Vacant

NW: Roger Meunier

VI: Peter Wilson

Contact information is on the new BCTA website:

<http://www.bctracking.org>

Committees:

Training

Communications

Policy

Tracker Call-Out

Correspondence: The Executive has received a quote for Directors and Officers Liability insurance, similar to the insurance all BC GSAR groups carry. Details of the coverage and cost are being worked out.

Financial Statement: Win Koch has taken on the position of Acting Treasurer, pending a member volunteering to take on the position, or until the elections at the 2011 Annual General Meeting. The A/Treasurer provided a financial update as of March 2011. As well, Directors were provided with a spreadsheet outlining the NIF Grant budget. A separate bank account will be used will be used for that budget.

Committee Reports

Training: The BCTA Tracker Training Standards draft is being reviewed, as well as an Instructor/Coordinator course outline

Course Announcements:

15-17 April Shuswap
BCTA Track Aware

22-24 April Duncan
UTS TTT and TK1

13-15 May Princeton
BCTA TKA, TK1 & 2

17-19 June Port Alberni

22-24 September Shuswap
UTS TK 1& 2

Details and links are available on the BCTA Website: www.bctracking.org

TRACKER SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have “Lessons Learned” or “Best Practices” you would like to pass on? Please write them up and send them in for future newsletters.



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Membership:

Membership renewals are requested by **1 May 2011**. Membership application forms are available for download and printing from the new Association web site.

The number of members is important for our status as a Society and for grant applications. It shows the commitment of the membership to the objectives of the Society. Please get out there and encourage the trackers you know to join our Association!

Peggy Shelley agreed to take over the task of producing membership cards. It was recommended that BCTA certificates be sent to the individual's SAR group for presentation at suitable occasions.

Policy Committee: The Board approved the Training Policy, which sets the reimbursements for BCTA Certified Instructors.

Tracker Call Out Committee: Peter Wilson and Mike Neeland volunteered to organize the Call Out system. The new BCTA membership form will ask members if they wish to have their name and contact information provided for the Tracker Call Out list. This may include Trackers who are currently not members of SAR groups. Members who are willing and available are asked to check off the response and they will be added to the Tracker Call Out list.

Tracker Advisors Another best practices review item was a recommendation to provide senior Tracker Advisors to support SAR Management where significant trackers are tasked. Again, Peter and Mike are

working on the details, but selected Sign Cutters or TK2s with SAR Manager certification could be called upon as specialist advisors to the Operations Chief or SAR Managers on a task.

Community Gaming Grant: The Association will re-apply for 2012. A volunteer is required to update and prepare the grant application. Deadline for the submission is August 2011.

BCTA Annual General Meeting will be held at the Shuswap course on Saturday 23 September. Members unable to attend in person may be able to participate via teleconference or Skype. The Summer 2011 newsletter will announce the details of the agenda, the budget for 2011 and election of Executive and Regional Director positions. Anyone interested in running for these positions should contact Win Koch at: president@bctracking.org

If you have questions, comments, suggestions or ideas, please drop us a line and we'll make sure they get addressed or passed on to the appropriate Board member or Committee, or published in the newsletter!

Send to: President@bctracking.org

